

I am a painter who explores identity through my interdisciplinary arts practice. I believe that identity, with its many layers and mutability, is similar to painting. Through my practice, I attempt to understand how identity is constructed and perceived by both the artist and the viewer. When I paint, I follow the material and my instincts, allowing my work to reflect what the paint is as it captures the emotions and experiences of the world around us while also communicating those which define us as human beings. I hope my art inspires others to creatively consider and explore their identity and find meaning in it and the world. Art can transform how we see ourselves, understand who we are and the symbiotic relationship between our identity and our world. My practice is interdisciplinary because I am always eager to explore new ideas and techniques to further my artistic journey. But mostly, I paint because I am, at my core, a painter.

—R. Thomas, Spring 2023