

**“Weight” Series:
“Easy Come, easy Go...” & “Are You Living in the Real World?”**

Many people close to me have experienced events that I can't imagine living through. My friends have lost loved ones, grown up in broken homes, and live with mental troubles that I have only experienced secondhand. Although I cannot fully understand their struggles, that doesn't stop me from empathizing with their hardships, and learning what they must deal with every day of their lives. As an artist, I create my work to represent those closest to me during their time of distress. In this series, “Weight”, with the current two paintings “Easy Come, Easy Go...” and “Are You Living in the Real World?” I capture the mood, emotion, and unrest that I witnessed at the moment of my close friends' struggles. This work includes projections sharing how my friends react when they are reminded of the event. To me, these paintings are a reminder of the struggles everyone, including myself, will have to experience at some point in our lives. In exploring the experiences of my friends, I made these paintings as a reminder of what it was like for me, in those moments, as I supported them to the best of my abilities and knowledge.

The 'in progress' presentation of the work represents the continuous struggles that my friends are facing. Just as an artist may never finish a piece completely, everyone's lives are a work in progress. They might spend their whole lives trying to fix an issue that there might not be a true solution for.

“Pressure”

My individual painting is one that I always look back on when thinking of my career as an artist here at Lycoming College. I painted it during one of the lowest points of happiness and control in my life. The painting “Pressure” explores how I felt during a time in my life where I was not happy, and stress was consuming the rest of my sanity. With a combination of multiple factors, I felt as if there was no escape, I turned to the painting and created what you see. I expressed the lack of time, along with the stress that piled on me and took over. The worst part is that I still didn't know what to do or who to turn to. I kept my struggles to myself and that was the most difficult part.

Travis Fernandez