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Emphasis in Painting - Spring 2021

2020 was a year filled with turmoil. Humanity has been testing its boundaries. Communities worldwide have reached a breaking point on many fronts, demonstrating the capacity people can care for an issue or the lengths they will go to ignore it. Catastrophes have overlapped each other: millions have died unnecessarily from a global pandemic; political turbulence in the US and the large distrust and lack of local and government leadership has destroyed its domestic and international relationships; the genocide of a community in China reads all too clearly as the arrival of a second Holocaust with shockingly little pushback; the world is burning - both literally and in a much larger sense.

This body of work addresses a few of the overwhelming problems that defined 2020. A single artistic style could not communicate them all. Each method of painting was chosen specifically to communicate the importance of an event, and depict and support the issues individually. Each piece is painted in a way that best elevates the problem, from the abstraction and texture of A Black and White Issue, to the stark contrast between the organic Antarctic planes and the harsh red slash of the thermometer in 64.9 Degrees that mars its landscape. One artistic style could not fit all of these issues the same way that there is no one solution for COVID-19, racial injustice and global warming. Each of these events carries with it its own weight, and my work aims to address their victims and collateral damage visually individually.