

“Be the change you want to see in the world.” This is a relatively common expression that we frequently hear, but how often do you reflect on it? I slowly began internalizing this statement as a mantra and started applying it to my work. I think about what I want to see in art and what I do not already see. In terms of local art, I notice that the safe approach seems to be the path most commonly followed and ideas and ideals do not get challenged. While art can be an outlet or an amusement, it should give voice to issues in a culture or society or to promote an understanding of the world around us. My current project involves using art to address sometimes unspoken, misunderstood and often uncomfortable issues within our society.

Each piece in my series is a painting based off a particular civil or social issue. Some of these topics are more known about than others but they all share the fact that they challenge our standard beliefs. Topics explore issues that range from modern day slavery to anthem kneeling with many things in between. The paintings are rendered digitally to represent today’s overarching technological influence on society. It is too easy now to block or ignore the things that make us uncomfortable and it can make us distant from each other by creating small social bubbles that we stay in. Emerging from these bubbles requires mental and spiritual growth that do not come from comfort and routine; rather, they emerge when we face our toughest challenges and sometimes ugly truths.

Drawing and painting are two mediums that continuously captivate and inspire me. Being attentive to minute details is something I enjoy about viewing and making art and I often add small details that give hints to or tell a story within the paintings relating to their general theme.

Through my art, it is my goal to not only create work that I am proud of but also to address social and civic issues and bring them to a wide audience. I want to be a change that is needed in the world.