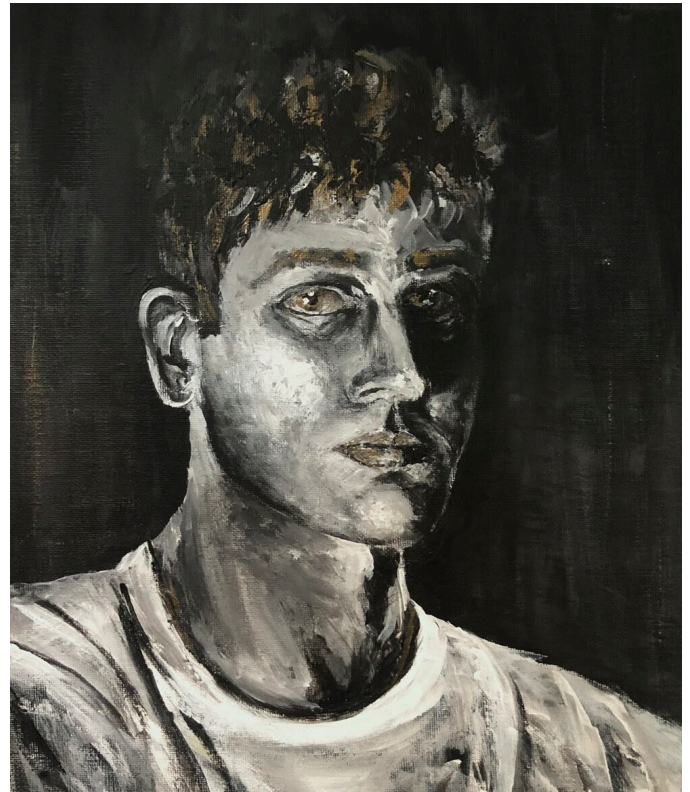




Stephen Anglim



STEPHEN ANGLIM

CHANGE IN THE ABSTRACT

I have recently become fascinated by the concept of entropy, as it parallels the constant change and chaos we encounter in life. In my work, I explore a period of change in my life through an inner psychological evaluation during these chaotic times. Events such as the pandemic and coming out have stirred up novel and unique feelings, my self-portraits investigating the complexities of who I am through expression, contradiction, and a distorted reality that lives in my head. Complementary colors, abstracted forms, and dynamic brushstrokes serve as expressions of conflict that I have experienced. Flowers represent the happiness I have found in embracing change: glimpses of beauty and hope amidst otherwise disorderly landscapes. My work demonstrates a creative process that has become more expressive and reflective, rather than planned and structured, focusing on the use of complementary colors and contradictory styles. This past year, my method of external exploration and observation has become internalized, looking within myself to find inspiration.



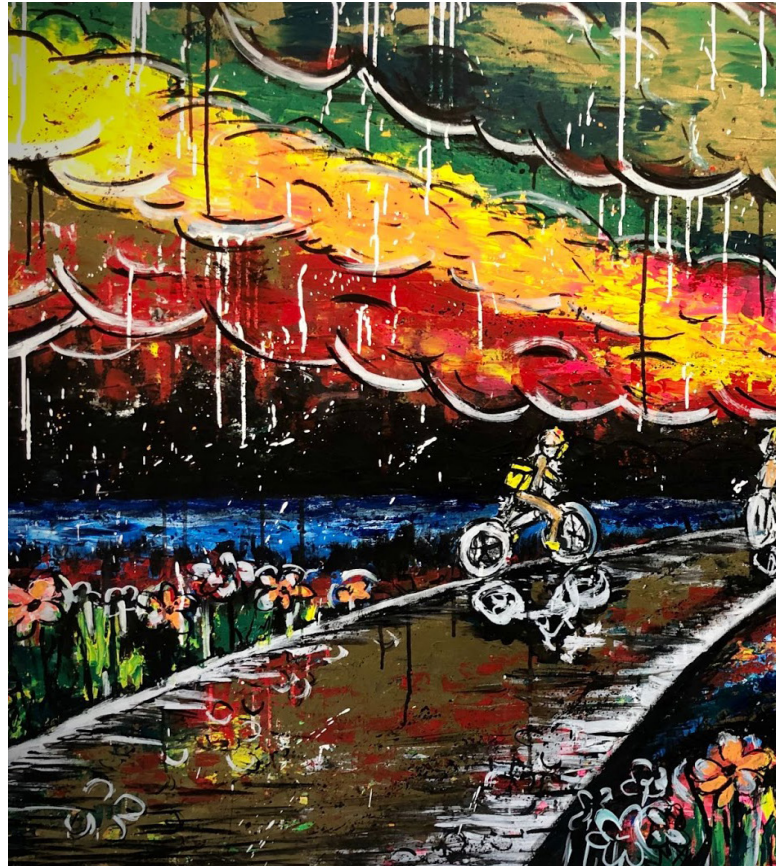
Stephen Anglim
The Hero

Q: How did you begin creating abstract art?

A: “Growing up, I really enjoyed art as a hobby and used to draw photographs that I took. Old school artists kind of frown upon painting from other people’s images because photographers set up their own composition and tell a story, so I took and painted my own. I struggled with abstract art at first because I didn’t know how people came up with the ideas in their mind. I felt as though I didn’t have enough life experience to convey the abstract concept of life and always went into my pieces with an end goal in mind. I struggled with a mental block but when I took a class at BC called “Pandora’s Box”, I was introduced to a completely new perspective. The class focused on different archetypes found in folktales, mythologies, and all kinds of stories- showing me that you can get inspiration from *anything*. I used to be too focused on putting meaning into my work rather than deriving meaning from it. I learned that it’s totally fine to get to a blank canvas and do whatever you feel compelled to do then take a step back and make connections afterwards.

Q: What inspired you to switch up your artistic style?

A: “I had been thinking a lot about a state of ‘in-between.’ Daniel Caesar (who is one of my favorite artists) came out with a song called ‘Superposition’ about entropy and the complexities of life. Superposition is used as a metaphysical term to describe a point in time where someone is both alive and dead... like an in-between state. When I heard this song and read more about its meaning, I really wanted to explore what that meant *visually* for me. I know there’s life and death, serenity and entropy... but what is in the middle of those? There’s a quote from a Greek philosopher, Heraclitus, that says “the only constant in life is change.” With the emergence of the pandemic last year and my recent coming out on my mind, I really had to accept that there was so much change in my life... the *in between* of my superposition. My art kind of shows me going with the flow of change and embracing it.”



Stephen Anglim
Biking

Q: Can you tell me more about your piece “The End?”

A: “ ‘The End?’ Is kind of like the end of a story... except it’s not really the end. In this piece, there are two people at the top of some canopy or mysterious forest that you would see in a folktale, looking into the horizon. The concept of time is inconspicuous and their surroundings are a bit ominous. Are the people aware of this and ignoring it? Despite the uncertainty around them, they seem relaxed with one of them pointing to the future in front of them. Instead of cowering in terror from what seems to be the end, they have confidence in the face of fear and change. It isn’t *the* end, but rather the start of a new beginning.

