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Artist Statement

My work centers on the question of identity in an attempt to pierce the subjectivity of the self and reveal the true nature of individuality. Too often we focus on the exterior – the conventions of daily life – and hide from our internal realities because they are complex, difficult, uncomfortable to define. I want to examine the nature of the individual both from a concrete, physical, external standpoint and from an internal, mental, emotional and spiritual one. I believe that a person's own reality is defined as much by his or her own mental state as it is by concrete physical surroundings. In order to fully understand the world around us, we must understand ourselves, the window through which we view the world.

I am interested in the idea of fragmentation as a means for expressing human modes of perception. We can only identify others through an amalgamation of our experiences, and even our own self-perceptions of identity may vary based on our environments, mental and emotional states, and personal decision. Because of the gestalt nature of human experience, we are constantly combining fragments of information in an attempt to create a cohesive view of reality. Our minds are in constant flux, changing and growing, constantly adjusting to new information. With every new thought, experience, and emotion, we add to our own personal Gestalt identity, creating a chain reaction that influences the way that the innumerable parts of the self interact with one another.

By presenting extremely cropped figures rather than complete portraiture, I am constructing a series of glimpses that mirror the way that we come to know and identify others – through experiences that reveal our identities in gradual pieces. I want to explore the self as an emotional, intellectual, and spiritual being that transcends the physical realm. It is my belief that most people identify themselves as existing within these invisible spheres but place others almost solely in the physical. My goal of revealing the true nature of identity carries with it a desire to catalyze interpersonal connections on a more profound level.

In the end, my paintings are an exploration of human identity in all of its complexity. I believe that we cannot understand the world around us unless we first understand ourselves, and so my work is an examination of human nature, perception, and emotion. By extension, it has become a voyage into my own thought processes and the way I view the world, and I encourage viewers to examine their own perceptions and consider the implications of their own self-constructs.