

ABSTRACT

“Art belongs to the people, its roots should penetrate deeply into the very thick of the masses of the people. It should be comprehensible to these masses and loved by them. It should unite the emotions, thoughts and will of these masses and arouse them.” -Lenin

The human spirit of the working class can be attributed not only to the expressions of its people, but to the attitude that each individual presents. As a manual labor worker myself, I have worked beside and built relationships with individuals who are overlooked by society on a daily basis. My understanding of their struggles and determination affects my perception of their emotions and expressions within my work. In my paintings I am trying to rediscover social awareness. This rediscovery lies in capturing a true representation of both the expressions and spirit in today’s working class from a contemporary perspective.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ABSTRACT.....	ii
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	iii
LIST OF FIGURES.....	iv
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION: A WORKER’S PERSPECTIVE.....	1
CHAPTER 2: INSPIRATION AND CONCEPTS.....	4
CHAPTER 3: TODAY’S SOCIAL REALITY.....	9
CHAPTER 4: INFLUENTIAL ARTISTS & THE RESILIENCE OF EXPRESSION.....	12
CHAPTER 5: THE PROCESS OF A WORKER.....	22
CHAPTER 6: EVOLUTION OF MY PAINTINGS.....	27
CHAPTER 7: AESTHETIC DECISIONS: DRAWING AND PAINTING.....	30
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	34
IMAGE CATALOG.....	37

LIST OF FIGURES

	Page
Figure 1. Gustave Courbet, “Stonebreakers”, 1849. Oil on Canvas, 65 X 94 inches.....	6
Figure 2. Philip Evergood, “Mine Disaster,” 1933-37. Oil on Canvas, 40 X 70 inches.....	7
Figure 3. Philip Evergood, “Mine Disaster,” (Detail).....	7
Figure 4. Norton & Ariely, “Percent of Wealth Owned,” 2010 (Domhoff Page 8).....	10
Figure 5. Vincent Van Gogh, “The Potato Eaters,” 1885. Oil on Canvas, 32.3 X 44.9 inches.....	13
Figure 6. Kaethe Kollwitz, “The Plowman,” 1907. Etching, 16 3/8 X 24 ¼ inches.....	15
Figure 7. Kaethe Kollwitz, “The Weaver’s Revolt,” 1893-97. Etching, 8 7/16 X 11 11/16 inches.....	16
Figure 8. Kaethe Kollwitz, “Help Russia,” 1921. Lithograph, 16 ½ X 18 inches.....	17
Figure 9. Leon Golub, “Fallen Warrior,” 1960. Laquer on Canvas, 81 X 73 inches.....	18
Figure 10. Leon Golub, “Interrogation I,” 1981. Acrylic on Canvas, 120 X 168 inches.....	20
Figure 11. Jonathan Murrill, “Vermiculite Test,” 2010. Acrylic and Vermiculite, 24 X 24 inches.....	23
Figure 12. Jonathan Murrill, “Untitled,” 2010. Digital Photograph, 5 X 7 inches.....	24
Figure 13. Jonathan Murrill, “Dave,” 2010. Oil on Canvas, 72 X 44 inches.....	24
Figure 14. Jonathan Murrill, “Workman’s Toil,” 2010. Oil on Canvas, 26 X 38 inches.....	26
Figure 15. Jonathan Murrill, “The Tool-Man,” 2011. Oil on Canvas, 28 X 40 inches.....	27
Figure 16. Jonathan Murrill, “Miller Time,” 2011. Oil on Canvas, 48 X 26 inches.....	28
Figure 17. Philip Evergood, “North River Jungle,” 1933. Pencil on Paper, 18 7/16 X 22 7/8 inches.....	29
Figure 18. Leon Golub, “Aging Golden Sphinx,” 2002. Oil Stick on Bristol, 8 X 10 inches.....	30
Figure 19. Jonathan Murrill, “Vince,” 2011. Oil on Canvas, 38 X 37 inches.....	31
Figure 20. Jonathan Murrill, “Patriot,” 2011. Oil on Canvas, 34 X 46 inches.....	32
Figure 21. Jonathan Murrill, “The Handy-Man,” 2011. Oil on Canvas, 54 X 48 inches.....	32