

OUR ART OUR REGION OUR TIME

Variations

33 x 33 inches
Oil on Canvas
\$4000



Jody Travis Thompson

[jodytravisthompsonpainting](http://jodytravisthompsonpainting.com)

Bio

Jody Travis Thompson was born in Sulphur, Louisiana on July 8th, 1972. He was inspired to begin painting from watching Bob Ross' *The Joy of Painting* as well as the movie *Xanadu*. At the age of eleven, he enrolled in private oil painting lessons. Thompson continued painting and in 1996 received his Bachelor of Art from McNeese State University in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Here, he received further training in the craft of realism and figuration. He also received instruction on Italian Renaissance methods of building the surface of a painting, which became his true passion.

In 1998 Thompson moved to the Northeast and lived in Baltimore, MD; New York City, NY; and Asbury Park, NJ. While living on the East Coast, Thompson maintained a continuous studio practice where he explored portraiture and figurative oil painting. It was during this time that he began experimenting with material driven abstraction.

It was Thompson's desire to explore the ways he could expand his studio practice which drove him to enroll in the Master of Art program at the University of Arkansas in 2016. During the three years prior to graduating in 2019, he explored deeper into material driven abstraction. Expanding the use of materials such as resin, makeup, spray enamel, duct tape and beeswax forced Thompson to expand his views on what constituted a painting. Shifting his focus from traditional methods of oil on canvas to the physical properties of different materials influenced his conceptual explorations of perception and memory as being mutable. Thompson's current body of work combines his formal training in oil painting with subtle representations of material driven abstraction. Conceptual concerns are driven through communication of the narrative through the figure, observing and excavating his own personal bias and unearned privilege which stem from learned heteronormative masculinity, whiteness, and perception.

Artist Statement

I am a painter because I make paintings. I think about *Xanadu* and Bob Ross. I listen to music that has layers. I love YouTube videos of makeup tutorials, landslides, then and now photographs, painting conservation, and hot guys. I love certain colors more than others. I create pictures by having various materials act as their properties determine. I love representing three-dimensional space, on a two-dimensional surface, that speaks to the fourth-dimensional. I see the studio as a laboratory where the act of making a painting is alchemical. I look for unwanted emotions or traits that I perceive as belonging to me and realize that they are being projected onto me from the outside. I mine down, deep within myself to root out the causes, conditions, and influences of these projections that I have used to build my reality. I try to see the truth for myself of the influence whiteness, heteronormativity, religious dogma, and alcoholism have on my own self-image and studio practice. My perceptions of what I think I know about myself, time, and the world around me are mutable.