

Miller Fourth-Year Arts Award: Outcome Report
Hollywood Narrative Paintings

By Jackson Casady

INT. UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA - RUFFIN STUDIO - NIGHT

It smells like Gamsol and Cheetos. JACKSON CASADY (a 4th year) vigorously paints, working to finish a series of oil paintings he started last fall.

JACKSON

I'm making paintings of the entertainment industry, highlighting the intrigue of the business, its personalities, lifestyle, traditions, and content, while also critiquing its celebration of celebrity and its monstrosity. The paintings depict different narratives: the glamorous and grotesque red carpet parade, the spectacle and magic of being on-set, the anxiety and serial nature of actors and talent at the audition, the producer reading a script by the pool, the absurdity of a Hollywood house party, the award show, and the movie theater experience. These paintings also comment on the business's cruelty, idealization, and creation of stars through an eccentric rendering of figures and painterly handling of material. Formally, the works are full of light and color. The style is representational, yet loose and more abstract. The compositions are invented from scratch and aim to be dynamic and filled with energy, complexity, and pockets of drama that invite the viewer to examine the scene, while also enjoying the work from afar.



JACKSON (CONT'D)

My influences are James Ensor, Henri Lautrec, George Bellows, Edward Hopper, and Eric Fischl. I admire artists who paint odd narrative scenes filled with brilliant color and energetic brushwork.

Jackson puts down his brush and looks into the camera.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

This program and the funding it's provided have helped me discover and express my own "style" and artistic signature. Although the paintings below are works-in-progress, I plan to continue exploring my relationship to painting in several areas: beautiful color making, expressive handling of the material, narrative storytelling, and simplified form making. I'm extremely grateful to be a part of a program that supports and encourages student artists to pursue projects they're passionate about. Thank you to the supporters of the Miller Arts Scholars program, with a special thanks to Sandy and Vinie Miller and Evie and Stephen Colbert.

