

Landscapes



Anchor House of Artists
Northampton, MA 01060
June 2021

Dominique Thiébaud

Catalog of the
Exhibit

Masked



Figures



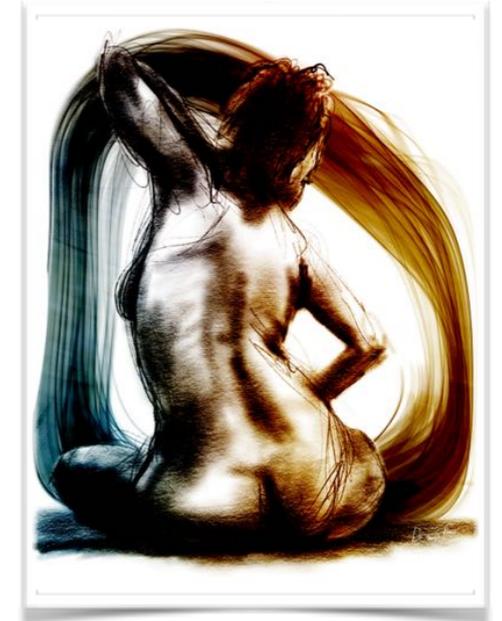
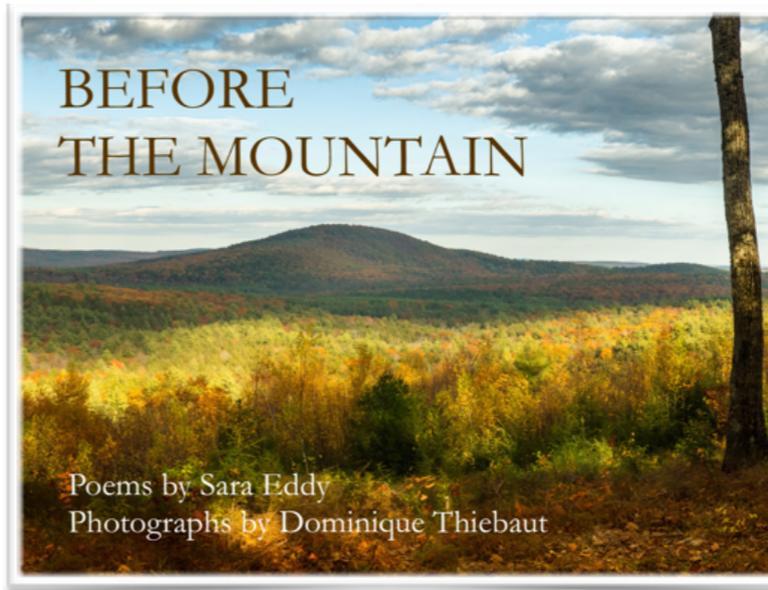
and the Ensō

Foreword

In this exhibit at the Anchor House I present four distinct areas of interest.

Photographing the landscape of the Pioneer Valley has been a favorite activity since I arrived in Amherst for graduate school many years ago. The wooded hills and the rivers reminded me of Burgundy, in France, where I spent my childhood summers.

After studying watercolor painting with local artists including Paula Gottlieb, Brooke Schnabel or Susan Halls, I switched to painting on the iPad in 2014, exclusively, and have continued painting the human figure since then. I currently use Procreate 5 on a 19-in iPad Pro.



This exhibit also coincides with the release of an eBook of poetry and photography, *Before the Mountain*, co-authored with local and renown poet Sara Eddy. This book evolved from the realization that we both loved the Pioneer Valley and its landscape. In the preface of our book, Sara writes:

We come to the valley from opposite directions, almost, but with equally deep love for the mountains, farmland, and greenscapes. Dominique's photos reveal a deep love for the area felt by an immigrant: his French roots contribute a feeling of global elegance to our little piece of New England. My own contribution here is that of a native: I was born in Cooley Dickinson hospital, and raised by the banks of the Fort River in South Amherst. The subjects of these photos--the Summit House, Mt. Pollux, the Holyoke Range--feel very much to me like my oldest friends, those who know me the best. Many of my poems are considerations of the history and geology of these "friends," while others explore my own history and geology, as it is rooted in these pieces of dirt and rock, basalt and clay.

The eBook can be purchased for \$9.99 from <http://bitly.ws/dFAy> or by pointing your mobile device to this QRcode:



The reference to *masked models* in the title reflects the fact that painting the human figure during COVID required models and artists to wear masks and obey strict rules of socializing. The more recent paintings were done under these conditions at the Northampton Center for the Arts, in Northampton, Massachusetts.

The movie in the exhibit, *Body Tricks*, by **Maria Guarino**, was first shown at the Anchor House in February 2020, with the following description:

Through a performative video graphic essay, **Maria Guarino** aims to create an honest, self-narrated space of her experience as an epileptic woman without filter, enabled by Sylvia Plath's novel *The Bell Jar* (1963). Aiming to produce a transparent and feminist representation of a disabled woman, Maria's hope is that this video essay will encourage spectators to question the stigmatization of seizures and disability.

The essay features artistic representations of Maria's seizures through live drawings and paintings by **Dominique Thiébaud**, music composed by **Ian Bauer**, and singing by Maria. Production by Maria and **Noah Luke**.

More information can be found at <https://mariaguarino.com/>



I discovered the Ensō symbol while reading Western calligrapher Fabienne Verdier's autobiographical work, *La Passagère du Silence*. Ensō is a hand-drawn symbol of the Zen tradition, either closed or open, the result of one or two brushstrokes. It carries many different meanings: energy, elegance, simplicity, void, strength, the perfection of imperfection, but also, more importantly for me, it depicts the moment when the mind is free to let the body create.¹

I include Ensō circles in some of my figure paintings to complement the figure, which is often devoid of background. The Ensō marks the end of the creative process.

¹ From Ensō Circle, <https://modernzen.org/enso-htm/>
captured on 5/25/2021

The paintings are quick sketches lasting 20 to 30 minutes, the length of a pose. They are raw and include the initial pencil marks. The Ensō circle is added in the last few seconds of the pose, using a few brushstrokes, often leaving the circle open. Part of the Ensō is erased to give a 3-dimensionality to the piece.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Fine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending across the middle.

Northampton, Massachusetts,
May 2021

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Poetry © 2020 Sara Eddy**

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<http://dominiquethiebaut.com/photography>

<http://dominiquethiebaut.com/painting>



Landscapes

The photographs exhibited are of places in the Pioneer Valley, in Massachusetts. The Seven Sisters, part of the Holyoke Range appear prominently in the photos, as well as views of Northampton, including several of its town hall. The photos are printed on recycled aluminum, through a process of dye-sublimation that fuses the dye to the aluminum substrate through heat and high pressure. The result is highly durable with a vibrant finish.

Early Morning Sun on the Town Hall

It's early morning, and the sun is rising behind the Holyoke Range, piercing the pale yellowish color of the foggy valley.



Tired Barn

Winter view of the the Hatfield plain, from the dike along the Connecticut River. This barn looked especially cold, and isolated, perfectly matching the weather and landscape around it.

Fiery Sunset

Summer sunset illuminating the sky over Smith College, highlighting the silhouettes of College Hall and Edward's Church steeple.



Greycourt Gates under Snow

This photo was taken at the beginning of Spring Break 2020, when Smith College decided to send its students home because of the COVID pandemic. The campus was eerily silent after the snow storm.



Orange Sky

A particularly dramatic sunset after a summer thunderstorm, with Saint Mary's steeples in silhouette.



Crew Team on the Connecticut River

Photo taken at the Coolidge Bridge, of the UMass crew team practicing an early spring morning, before sunrise.



Emerging from a Diaphanous Mist

This photo was taken under the Coolidge Bridge, in Northampton, on a foggy winter morning. The water was perfectly still. Unbeknownst to me, one of the kayakers was a friend of mine, who later recognized himself in my Instagram feed.



Red Eddies

Another particularly red sunset over the Holyoke Range, as seen from Northampton, decorated by delicate cloud eddies reflecting in the setting sun.



A Sliver of Light

Early morning. Fog covering the Connecticut River valley. The sun is about to burst, and illuminates a thin layer of fog covering the mountain tops. It gives the Seven Sisters the feel of a giant ocean wave...

Lonely Bird over Fog Dragon

I was going for the fog dragon that was following the Connecticut River, when this single bird appeared in the shot. It has now become my favorite part of this panoramic of the Seven Sisters.



Woodstar is Closed. Goodnight.

Night panoramic of
Northampton's
Masonic Street,
featuring Woodstar
Café, my favorite
place for breakfast,
croissants and
baguettes. Oh,
and also for their
eclairs...



10 O'Clock

Photo taken on a slightly foggy night in late fall. The fog and the full moon gave a translucent quality to the night sky. The clock sits on the tower of College Hall, on Smith College campus.



McConnell Hall

The noirish
McConnell Hall, on
Smith Campus,
provides the
dramatic
interaction of light
and shadow, and
anonymous urban
space that I
associate with
Edward Hopper.



Looking for Burgers and Beer

Button Street, a small alley behind Packard's, a pub with legendary spicy fries to go with your burger. Packard's is closed for the winter, due to COVID, and I will miss the smell of burgers and beer that floats on Button Street...





Sirens and Flashing Lights

Another foggy night in Northampton. I was taking a photo of Hotel Northampton when a fire truck sped by, all lights flashing, sirens sounding at full blast. The camera long exposure captured only a trail of flashing red lights...

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?

Tyler Annex, on Smith College Campus, was the location where the outside scenes of the movie with Richard Burton and Liz Taylor were filmed.



The Club

Now a conference center, this building overlooking Paradise Pond, on Smith College campus, was once the faculty club. Sitting in the top level of the building on a fall day, with the Mill River flowing below is a treat.



Thornes Market

A night shot of one of Northampton's iconic places. The square facade of the building and the lighting gave an interesting festive look that contrasted with the street emptied by COVID curfew.



Northampton Wrapped in Fog

Same vantage point as the “Woodstar is Closed” photo, but taken on a foggy night. The buildings on Masonic Street are barely visible.





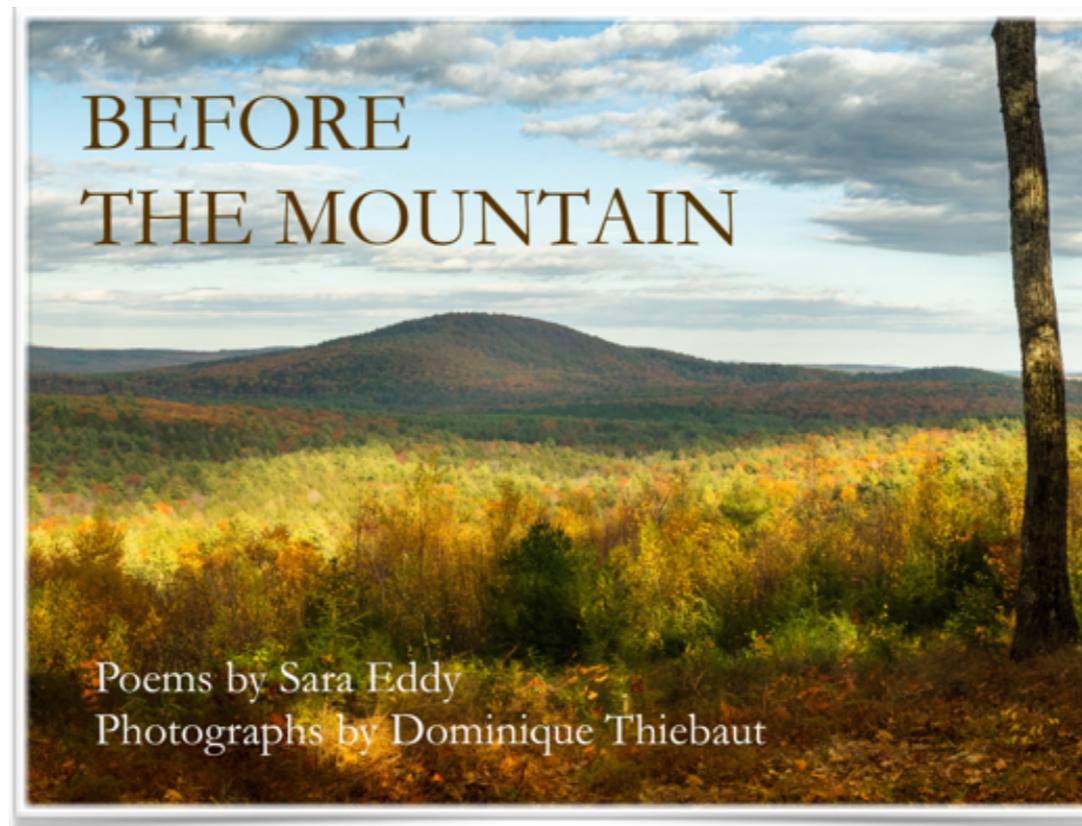
ACADEMY OF MUSIC

Academy of Music

Same foggy night that *Northampton in Fog* was taken. I love the reflection of the red neon sign, and the lonely side porch.

Red Summer Sunset over College Hall

A spectacular sunset caught on a warm summer evening. The steeple of Edward's Church aligns almost perfectly with College Hall.



Poetry: *Before the Mountain.*

This exhibit presents three of the poem-photo pairs from the eBook *Before the Mountain*, co-authored with Poet Sara Eddy. It is available for \$9.99 on Apple Books.

Download link: <http://bitly.ws/dFAy>



The Municipal Building

The sun sets on town hall
and charges it with grandeur;
another day in small government
closes its books; the holders
of clerkships and managerial thrones
expel a sigh of gratitude.

Their civic fortitude, their passion
for pothole and passport,
traffic pattern and dog license
has survived one more turn.

And when the bigger dragons come
to threaten the city's peace,
the monsters of overtake and underpass,
they will be ready—they will stand for us,
they will do their best. This
is what the sun tells us,
drawing a spotlight from
93 million miles away
on the central municipal building.

—Sara Eddy

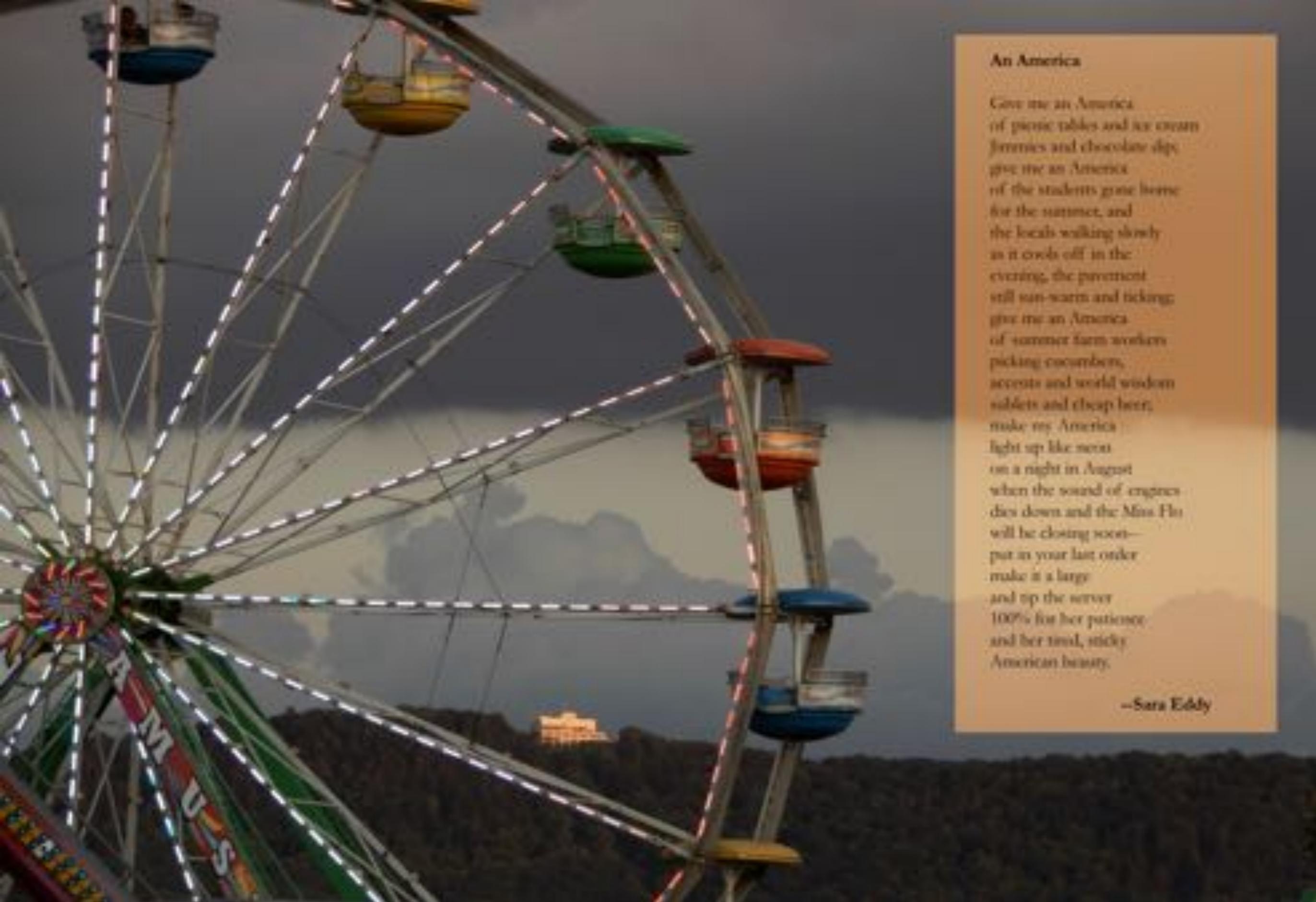


Summer Fling

Summer crashes in one day,
drunk as usual
full of crude jokes
and maudlin love poems,
and you can't help yourself:
he's a drug, he's a bad boy
he serves a heady
cocktail of nights
at 17, driving alone
past fields of fireflies,
the constellations
that held your hand through
early heartbreak, through
the creak and snap
of growing up. Summer
keeps those fields
in his pocket, and brings
them out just as you tire
of humidity and air conditioning,
the too-obvious beauty
of peonies, zinnias, asters.
And you are seduced again,
your old body feels silvery
and touchable, and before long
you're drinking wine
made by the edge of a pond,
planning your next good life.

--Sara Eddy



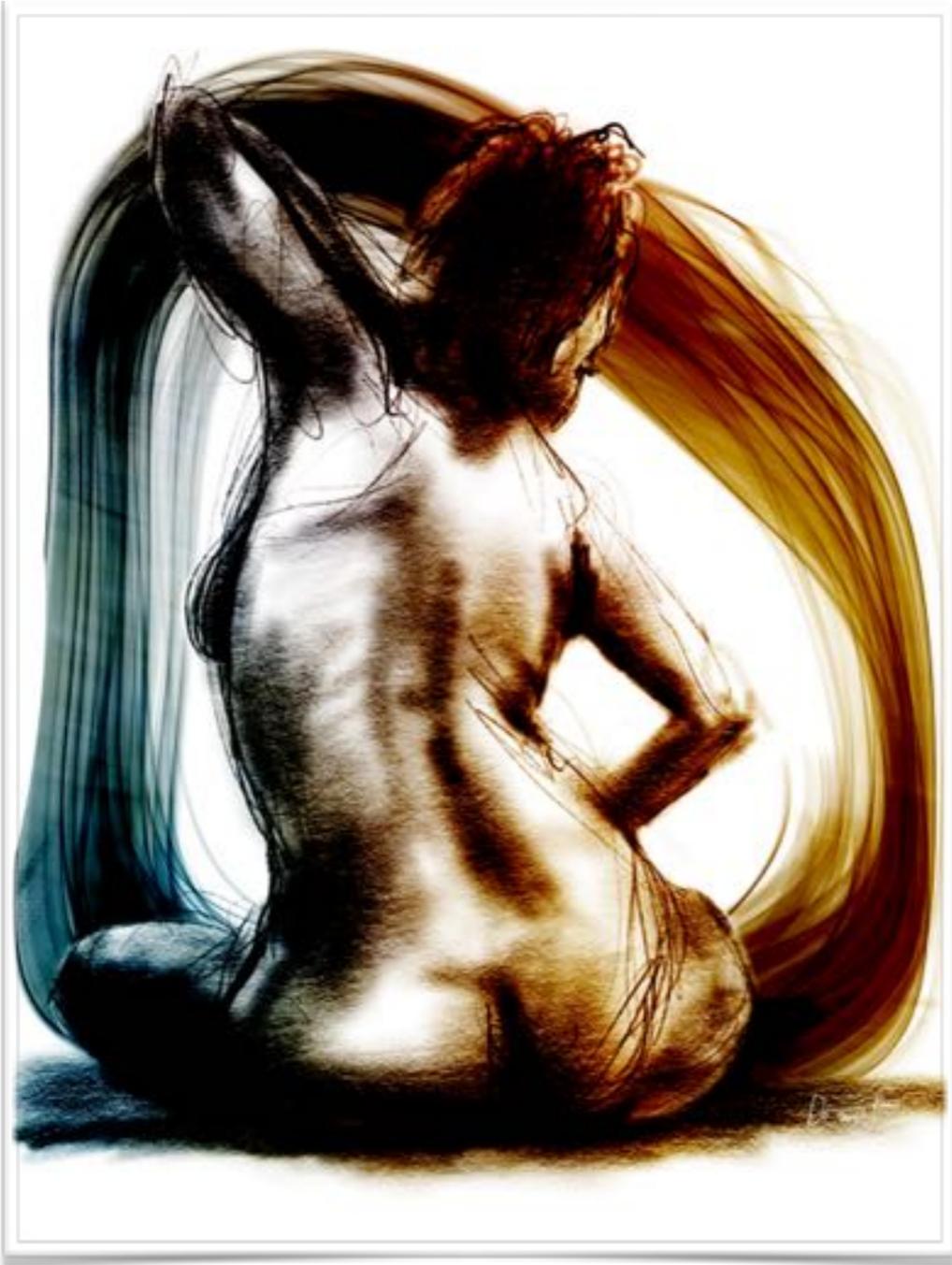


An America

Give me an America
of picnic tables and ice cream
fannies and chocolate dips,
give me an America
of the student's game home
for the summer, and
the locals walking slowly
as it cools off in the
evening, the pavement
still sun-warm and ticking;
give me an America
of summer farm workers
picking cucumbers,
accents and world wisdom
sublets and cheap beer,
make my America
light up like neon
on a night in August
when the sound of crickets
dies down and the Miss Flo
will be closing soon—
put in your last order
make it a large
and tip the server
100% for her patience
and her tired, sticky
American beauty.

—Sara Eddy

Masked Models and the Ensō



The paintings presented in this exhibit were created with the software application Procreate 5 on an iPad Pro. The paintings are printed on 310g Hahnemühle fine-art paper, by Evolv Fine-Art Printing, Easthampton, Massachusetts. Gold leaves are added by hand to some of the prints, in a more or less random pattern, making the prints unique.

Twisting Ensō

Digital painting.
2021



Disappearing Act

Digital painting.
2021



Unfinished

Digital painting.
2021



Masked Unmasked.

Digital painting.
2021



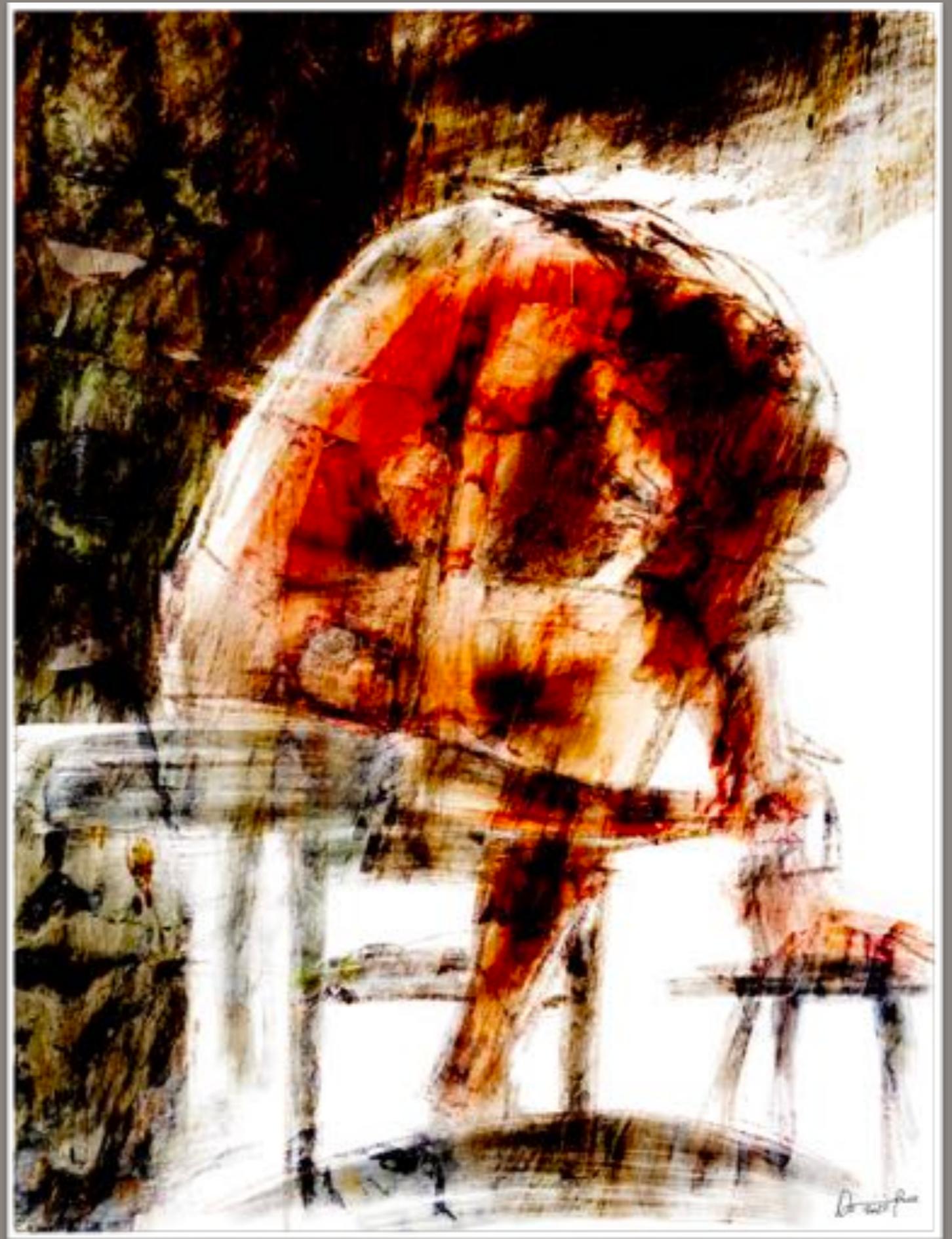
Afraid

Digital painting.
2021



The End of a Long Day

Digital painting.
2021



Morning Stretch

Digital painting.
2021





The Long Wait

Digital painting.
2021



Princess

Digital painting.
2021



Gold Dust

Digital painting.
2021

Dominique Thiébaud was born in Paris, France, and moved to the Pioneer Valley in the 1980s to study at the University of Massachusetts. Like many residents, he never left the valley, and adopted it as his home, and currently lives in Northampton, MA.

He is an avid photographer, spending every opportunity to capture the beauty of our ever changing New England skies.

His digital paintings of the human figure are all monochromatic originally, and are overlaid with up to four of his more tone-rich photographs, giving them the red and sepia tones present in many of them.

Web links

@modiniquet on Instagram

<http://dominiquethiebaut.com/painting>

<http://dominiquethiebaut.com/photography>

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Recent exhibits

- NohoSkies, solo, Town Hall, Amherst, MA, 01002, Jan-Feb 2019
- Valley Skies, solo, Hitchcock Center, Amherst MA, Feb-Mar 2020
- Small Works Gallery, 1 photo, Gateway City Arts, Holyoke, MA, Dec 2020
- This is Us, 1 photo, D'Amour Museum of Art, Springfield, MA, Dec 2020-Jan 2021

All photographs and prints available for purchase in smaller and larger formats. Please email dominique.t@gmail.com for inquiries and orders.



Photos



Paintings



Special Thanks...

to **Michael Tillyer** and **Susan Foley** of the **Anchor House of Artists** in Northampton, Massachusetts, for their gracious invitation to exhibit in their gallery, and for their generous spirit.

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