

Digital Drawing Room: MFA Fine Arts featuring Julian Harris

by Selam Bekele



Julian Harris

Starting May 10, you can view work by students in the MFA graduating class on the website 2021.CCAMFA.art and in the [Class of 2021 Showcase](#).

Works in this series were written by students in Glen Helfand and Maria Porges' respective graduate writing seminars this past fall and spring.

It's interesting how the quest for fulfillment may take us on journeys unexpected. Born in Atlanta, Julian Harris has traveled to countries such as Chile, Ireland, Morocco, and China. He has allowed his experiences in these various countries to shape him and inform his every step. Harris started off as a travel photographer, taking photos from his own perspective of the people and places he has met on his journey.

For the past several years, Harris' "studio" has been in his lived experience as a young man from Georgia trying to see the world. In order to support his creative practice, Harris has taken on many jobs including being a pharmacy technician and working as a kindergarten teacher in Beijing, China. It was here as an educator that his love for "being of service" and working with young children blossomed into a playful passion he hopes to incorporate into his practice.

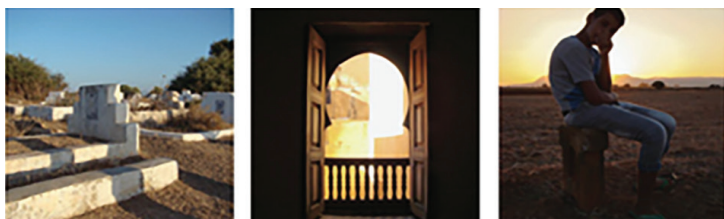
In the midst of the Black Lives Matter movement, and a national reckoning for racial justice, Harris has communicated that he is working through a lot of frustration and



double trapped

sadness. As a Black man, and a frontline healthcare worker, this pandemic affected Harris deeply. So how does a man who finds his greatest fulfillment in traveling keep his creative passions alive during a global lockdown? Harris is challenging his practice, by moving into abstractions and experimenting with digital painting softwares.

Through use of color, erasure, darkness, and repetition, Harris is working through the precarious emotions that 2020 will be memorialized by. It is evident that Harris involves himself in the moment, and for this, I'm curious where his work will take us next.





Left to Right: covid-19 embrace; mirroring emphasis



(do) black lives matter!