

Gareth Kostolefsky Artist Statement

Title: Virus

The beginning of my artistic process usually begins with brainstorming about the concept and how that will translate into a specific topic I want to make a statement about. Believe it or not, this painting is not related in any way to the health crisis of 2020. In fact, I began designing this piece of work in September of 2019 and completed the work in October 2019.

Conceptually, the true meaning of this piece of work was founded on a much more personal level. During 2019, I was going through a fairly tough transitional period in my life. It was a very challenging time for me, but I knew it wouldn't last forever and that the only way to go was through it. Looking back on those hardships, they have only helped shape who I am as a person and artist. They made me stronger and blessed me with a different perspective.

Visually, I wanted to represent the feelings that I was trying to understand at that time. The "virus" is my representation of the challenges I was facing. The pattern on the woman's face is symbolic of that "virus" spreading. To further imply my message, her eyes appear red & glazed over. Although, her head remains held high with her sight set toward the future.