



Surfacing  
Jessica Chiles  
Senior Exhibition  
April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020



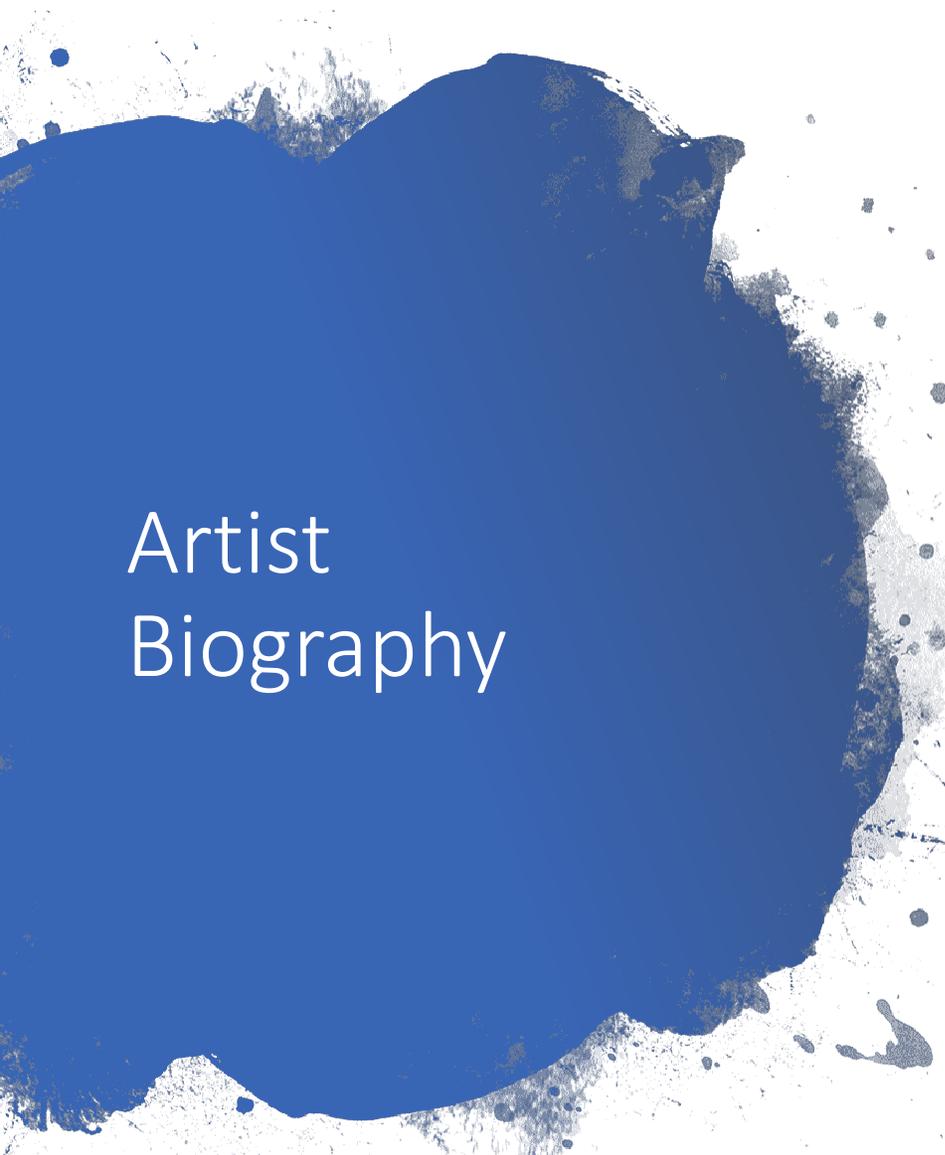
# Thesis Statement

**Surfacing is the exploration of combining two forms of abstract painting. Color-field and Process painting. I chose these methods to express the duality in nature between anxiety and depression. Being someone who battles with both; I am in a constant state of the in between. I continually have internal struggles with emotions and how I should be feeling. These pieces are expressions of both sides of arguments between anxiety and depression. Most of the time I am unaware which feeling will surface.**



# Proposal

For my exhibition, I plan to develop paintings that combine two forms of abstract painting methods. This exhibition will be a space representative of my view of process painting and color field painting. These methods are a form of release when I am struggling with my mental illness. Specifically, anxiety and depression. I will explore color, pattern, texture, and repetition combinations to create these paintings.



## Artist Biography

Jessica Chiles Is an abstract painter. She was born and raised in Kettering Ohio. She moved to Clarksville TN in 2010. Then returned to school to further her knowledge of the arts. She will receive her BFA in studio art in spring of 2020. Jessica's work is heavily inspired by Color field and Process painting. She uses these forms of abstract painting to speak about her battles with mental illness.

Jessica Chiles  
1241 Archwood Dr.  
Clarksville Tn, 37042  
(937) 903-5499  
[jlchiles0117@gmail.com](mailto:jlchiles0117@gmail.com)

Abstract artist and sculptor. With 8 years of volunteer/community service and 6 years of training through education at Austin Peay State University. Holds a Liberal Arts Associates of Science Degree and a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts.

### **EXPERIENCE (COMMISSIONED WORK)**

- 2018 Tecumseh High School Mural
- Assistantship Boom Town Beaver
- 2013 Fairmont High School Murals

### **EDUCATION**

#### **MAY 2020**

BACHELOR'S DEGREE OF FINE ARTS, AUSTIN PEAY STATE UNIVERSITY

4.0 GPA Spring of 2019

2019 Deans List

#### **JANUARY 2018**

LIBERAL ARTS ASSOCIATES DEGREE OF SCIENCE, AUSTIN PEAY STATE UNIVERSITY

2014-2018 maintained a 3.5- 3.75 GPA

Dean's List 2014-2018

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

2018 NAIA

2014-2019 Costume and Stage Design Kenwood High School

2012 Mural For 1-75 Cav

2011-2015 Sketches For 1-75 Cav

For t-shirt, hoodie, sweaters, and blanket designs.

### **SKILLS**

- Proficient in abstract painting design.
- Team Player that is capable of critical and pragmatic thinking to make informed decisions
- Able to work independently or as part of a team.

## References

Mr. Tyler Alexzander Principle  
Fairmont High School  
Kettering Ohio 45420  
May 2013

Mr. Aaron Oaks  
Tecumseh High School  
New Carlisle Ohio  
45344 August 2018

1SG. Brian Deppner  
1-75 Cav  
Fort Campbell Ky  
(937)-414-3983  
(270)-798-2210



## Motives & Goals

Personal experiences with mental health and finding creative outlets are what drive my content.

My goal is to express concepts of emotion, relief, peacefulness, through painting.



## Methods

Application of media  
through repetition  
painting of colors,  
shapes, and texture

Creating one painting  
three times using the  
same rules from the first  
painting.



## Viewers Experience

The viewer should gain a sense of the emotional weightlessness that comes out of working through mental illness.

Raise awareness of art as therapy. Cause viewers to empathize with people whose concerns are generally ignored simply because the problem is not always physically manifested.

Past work

Pretty Dark Thought's  
Molding Paste, Ink  
and Acrylic on canvas.

4'x5'

January 2019



# Past work Continued

Untitled

Molding paste, ink, spray  
paint, acrylic paint on canvas  
panel.  
12"x24"



Influences:  
Color field  
artists

- Mark Rothko
- Morris Louis

# Mark Rothko

Mark Rothko was one of the most well-known members of the abstract expressionist movement, known primarily for his color field paintings. His famous signature large-scale color-field paintings, consisting solely of large rectangular blocks of floating, pulsing color, engulf, connect with, and transport the viewer to another realm.



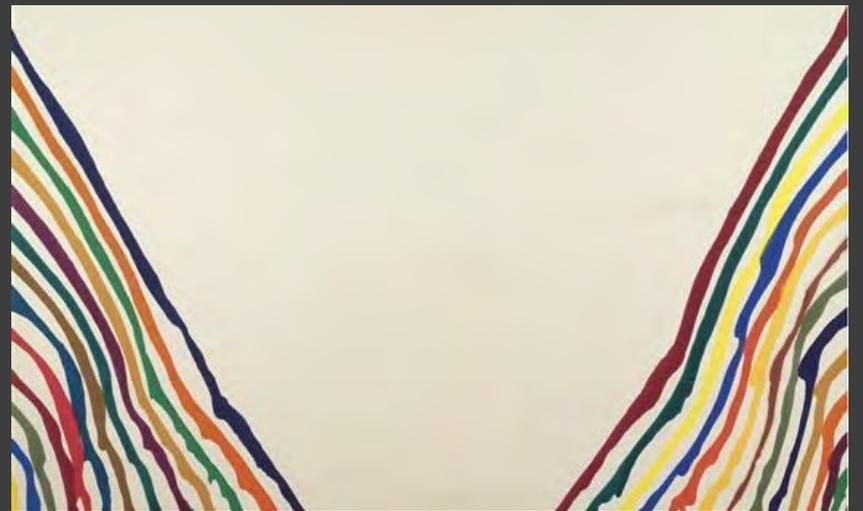
Mark Rothko, No. 10, 1950. Oil on canvas, 229.2 x 146.4 cm (90 1/4 x 57 5/8), The Museum of Modern Art, New York, Gift of Philip Johnson, 1952, © 1998, The Museum of Modern Art, New York



Mark Rothko, *White Center*, 1950, Private Collection

# Morris Louis

- Known for his vivid “stain” paintings, Morris Louis was an American Abstract Expressionist and a color field painter. Rather than adopt the gestural and painterly style of contemporary artists he took to pouring diluted paint directly onto the canvas, letting pigments soak into brightly colored bands. He often left large areas of the canvas untouched, with the negative space playing a significant role in his work.



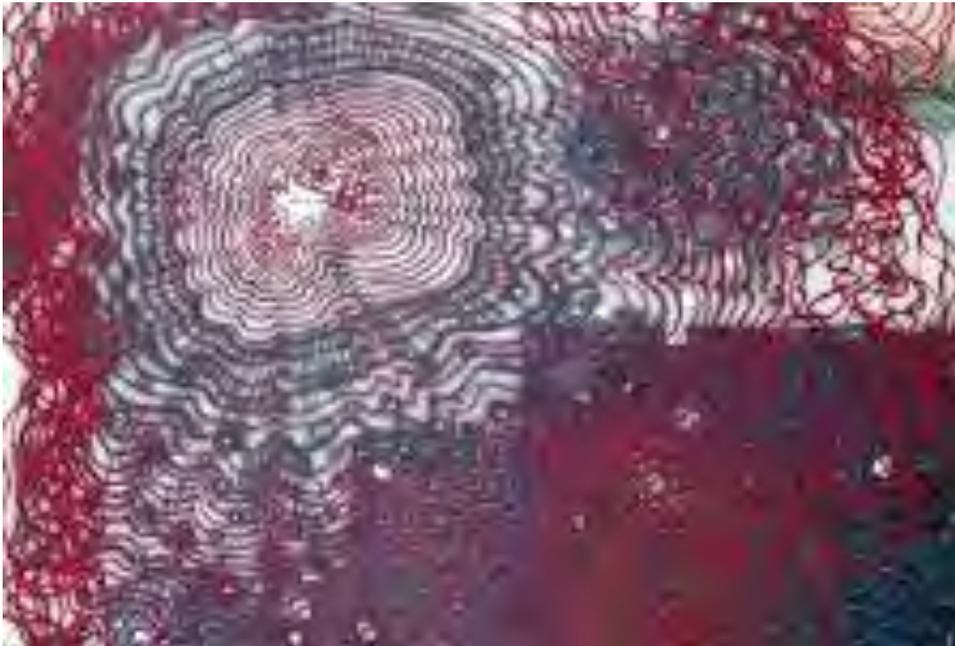
# Influences: process artists

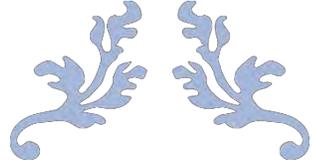
- AIDA TOMESCU
- BERNARD COHEN

Aida Tunesco: is an Australian contemporary process artist, who is known for her abstract paintings, drawings and prints.



Bernard Cohen is a British painter. He is regarded as one of the leading British abstract artists of his time.





---

# MANIFESTED

---

Senior Thesis 4150



JESSICA ROSS  
FALL 2019

## Proposal Idea

For my exhibition, I plan to create a space representative of my descent into mental illness. Specifically, my anxiety and depression. I will explore combinations of 2- and 3-dimensional pieces involving color theory and texture.

## Motives and Goal

Personal experiences with mental health are what drive my content.

My goal is to express concepts of anxiety and depression through sculptural and visual formats.

## Methods

Application of media through sculpting of plaster.

Creating paintings on canvas made of repurposed materials such as bed sheets, wedding dress, divorce papers and love letters.

## **Viewers Experience**

The viewer should gain a sense of the emotional weight that those with mental illness carry.

Raise awareness of mental illness and cause viewers to empathize with people whose concerns are generally ignored simply because the problem is not always physically manifested.

## Timeline for work/Progress

Mentor Meeting: August 30<sup>th</sup> - September 6<sup>th</sup>

Idea Development/Mental Illness Research: September 7<sup>th</sup> - September 30<sup>th</sup>

Fabric Tests: October 1<sup>st</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>

Break: October 13<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>

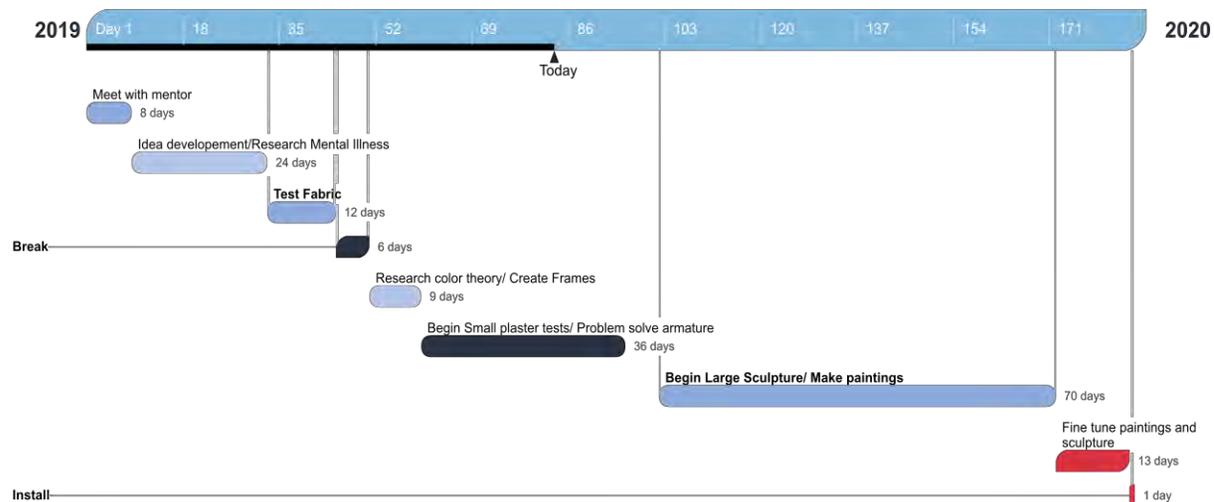
Color Theory Research / Create Frames: October 19<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>

Begin Small Plaster Tests / Begin Large Paintings: October 28<sup>th</sup> – December 8<sup>th</sup>

Continue Large Paintings/ Study Armature: December 9<sup>th</sup> -Feb 16<sup>th</sup>

Begin Large Sculpture/ Fine tune paintings: Feb 17<sup>th</sup> – Feb 29<sup>th</sup>

## Thesis Schedule



Research Images

Janine Antoni



Kiki Smith



Philip Taafte



## Process Documentation

### Frames



# Color Theory Test

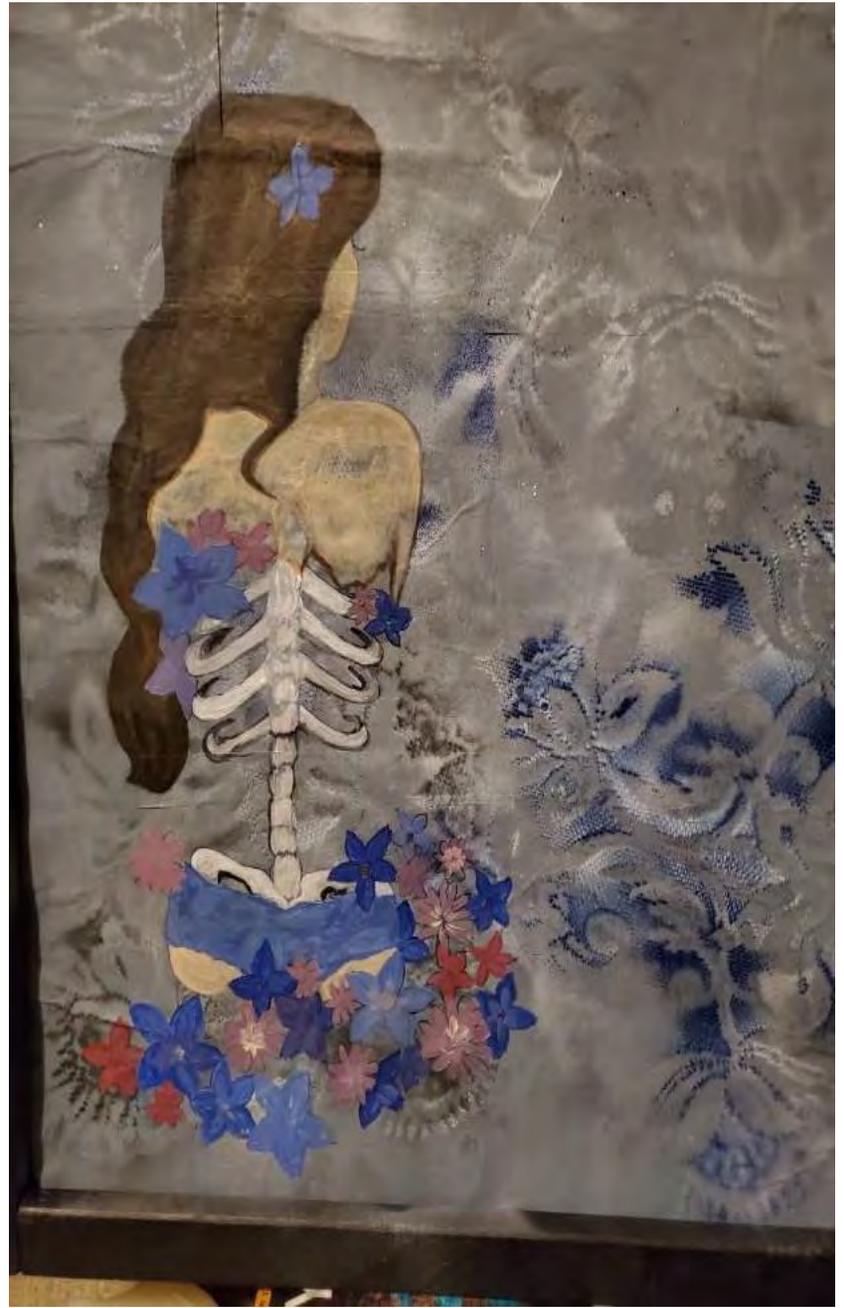


# Plaster Tests



Painting Ideas



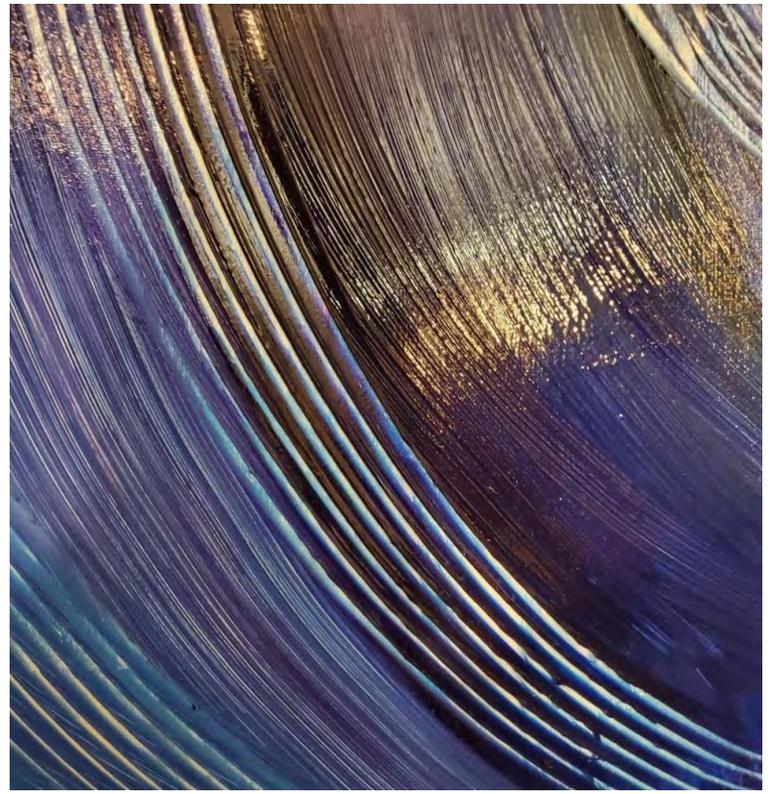
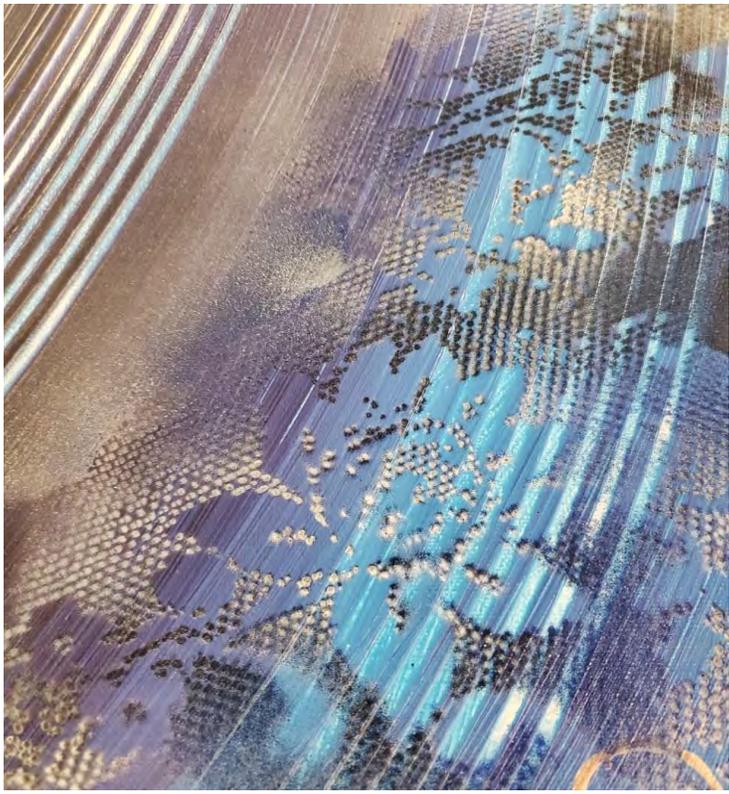




New Work in  
progress

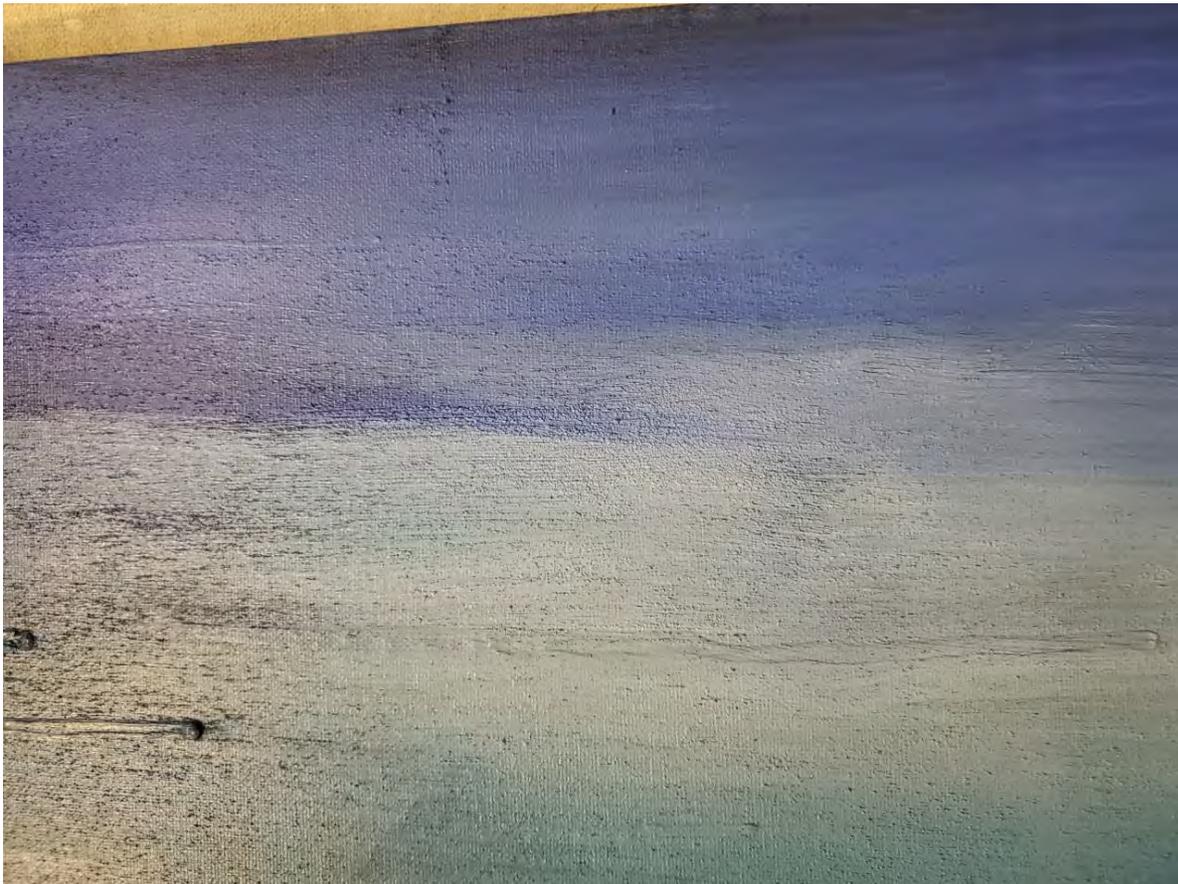
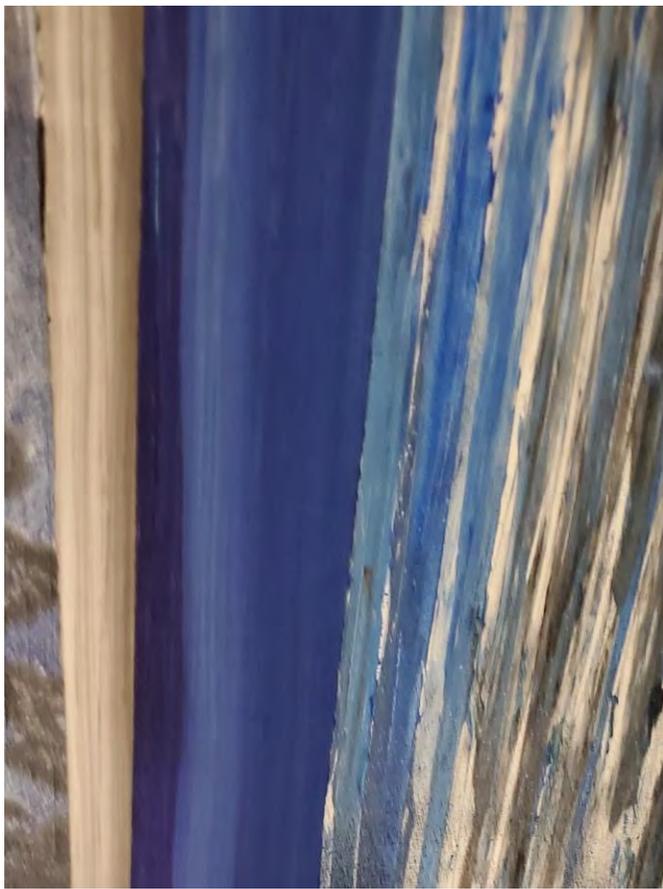
Work in progress











## Artist Web site

<https://www.jlchilesabstractarts.com/>

Contact

Jessica L. Chiles

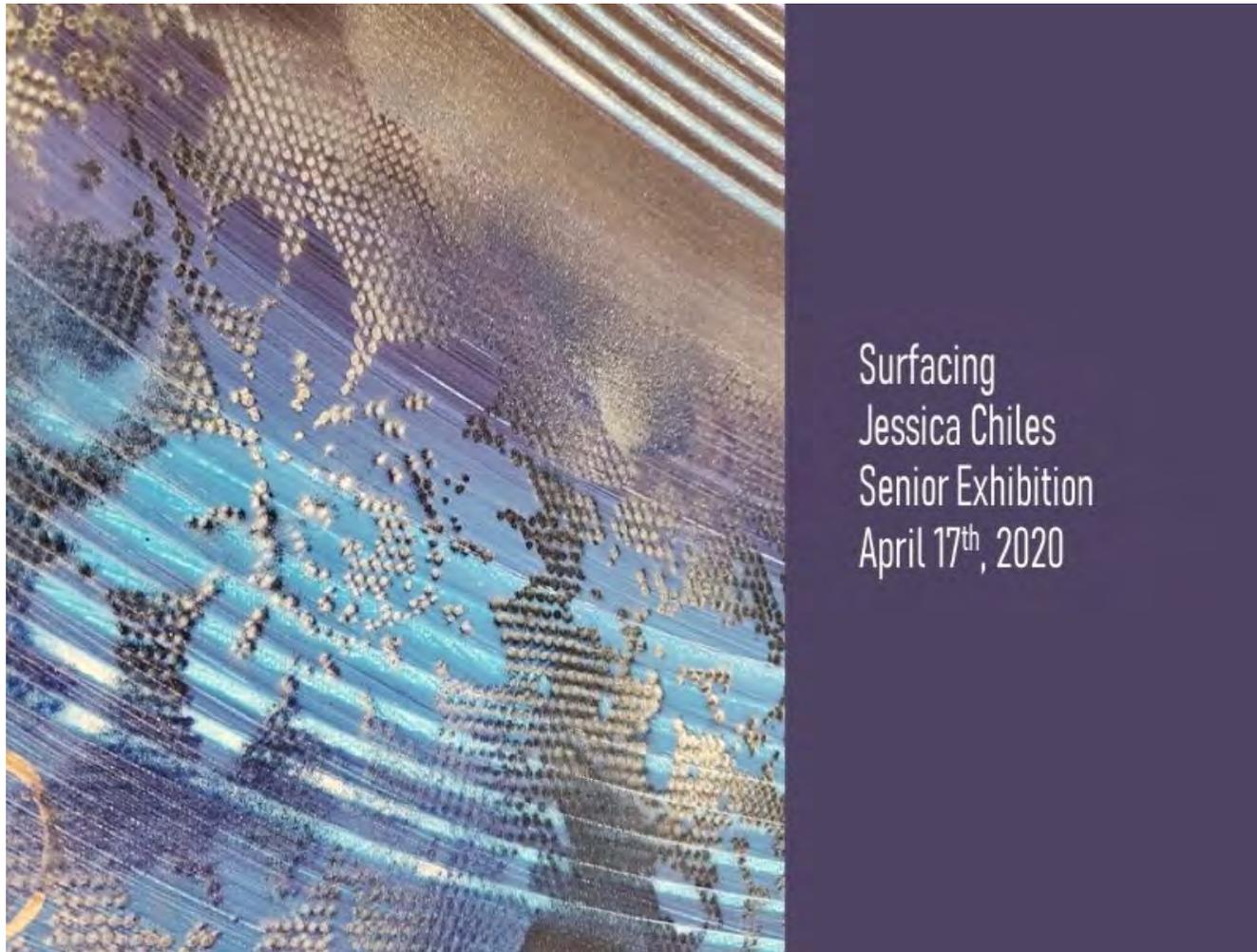
Clarksville Tn, 37042

jlchiles0117@gmail.com



# Senior Show Flip Book

<https://www.flipsnack.com/jlynn623/surfacing.html>



# Self Reflection and feed back.

Taking 4150 -4160 with Paul Collins and Billy Renkl as my mentor really set me up for success. Both professors were amazing at guiding and educating me through the year of getting my show out of my head and onto canvas. I had this solid plan of creating this 3-dimensional environment where my nightmares could live. In my time I have gained a lot of knowledge with the materials I chose to use to create this vision. But there was this disconnect in the work as I was creating it. I took a pause and really thought about how I wanted to continue forward. With Paul and Billy's guidance I found the path that suited my Ideas and the images a kept seeing in my head. Once inspired I pursued this course of action, I began to find myself again. Then images just flooded my brain. I knew I I wanted heavily textured and decorative pieces. So I played with molding paste and glue and anything I could add to the canvas before painting it. I played around with the idea of a virtual tour, but it did not do my textured pieces justice. So I chose to set up my senior show in a flip book. I wanted it to look like a magazine of my pieces.

Looking back I wish I could have had the opportunity to photograph the paintings better. But I used what I had and because of the lovely coronavirus A lot of people were limited. Some of the feed back I took away from my show is that even though many did not understand my titles or agree on what I felt they are engaging pieces. When I look back on them, I see a therapeutic release of emotions that I expressed on canvas. That is the joy of abstract art. You may not see what was inside of the artists mind at the time but something about it resonates with you. These feelings are what will continue to drive my work and help me continue as an artist. Some of the best advise ever given to me. "***Be comfortable with people not seeing it the same way as you do***" –***Billy Renkl***

This show kick started a little business for me within a few days I sold some of my works. This has inspired entire new set of paintings. This class and putting this show together was a roller coaster of emotions and really pushed me mentally. But it opened a very clear path for me.