I am a visual artist primarily working in figurative painting and drawing. I am compelled to paint to seek an understanding of my place in a chaotic and heartbreakingly beautiful world. My work is grounded in the struggle to accept the constancy of change and addresses the slipperiness of memory and time.

Content emerges through heavily layered paint with evidence of process left on view—my drive to create is as strong as my impulse to deteriorate. Scraping and sanding away materials is as important as building them up. The created allegories depicted are rooted in the familiar but not beholden to the physical laws of nature. I am continually working at the edges of my control and relish where unpredictable circumstances lead to new possibilities. I may start with an idea, but it is important to remain open to changing paths as a painting develops. I explore ways to depict time through aged surfaces, reclaimed materials, and the panoramic form.

The work is about gathering disparate thoughts, situations, and figures and juxtaposing them to build new connections, narratives, and meaning. It's about pushing against what a painting or art 'ought' to be while acknowledging that I am not isolated from current and past artists, thinkers, and adventurers. Historical and contemporary artworks, varied cultures, travel, music, and every thread of fragmented phenomenon that draws my reverence and delight play an influential role in my work's evolving state.

– Ian Grieve 2 MAY 2023