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Nocturne Interiors

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Abstract

This painting series captures scenes of common interior spaces in a nighttime setting through the medium of watercolor. The series consists of three paintings, each featuring various household spaces: a kitchen, a bathroom, and a bedroom. I referenced my own living areas when creating these spaces. Some elements are observed, while others are imaginary. Each room is illuminated by the soft glow of moonlight or artificial lighting, creating a serene atmosphere. The paintings tell a narrative that allows the viewer to feel as if they are existing in the space in real-time, catching brief glimpses of the light and shadows that peak through the darkness. Through thoughtful brush strokes and an inventive color palette, I hope to convey feelings of tranquility and a sense of liminality amidst the nocturne environment.

The idea for this series was derived from one of my earliest independent series, which was completed in 2019. I created a total of eight watercolor pieces, each of an everyday environment that expressed some liminal quality as if transitioning into an alternate reality. I am especially drawn to liminal spaces, and through my artwork, I hope to capture the feeling of existing in those spaces where time seems suspended. The boundaries of familiar and unfamiliar blur into one. I asked myself how I could take this past concept and incorporate it into a series that felt more personal to me. The result was a series of three watercolor paintings featuring various living spaces from inside my own home.

As a night owl, I have noticed that a major shift in a house's atmosphere occurs

after dark. Surroundings seem to become less familiar. The environment transforms into something mysterious, and slightly unsettling. Yet I feel overcome with feelings of solace and intrigue. The interior's appearance is altered by dark shadows and flits of moonlight. My paintings reflect a strong appreciation for the mundane and encourage the viewer to contemplate what might lie beneath the surface of the nocturne environment.

I chose to work in watercolor for this series. Through my time at Millersville, I've grown to really love the medium. Watercolor is incredibly versatile. It can be used for illustrations and quick sketches, or super intricate and intensely detailed artworks. Watercolor demands a lot of patience from the artist and various techniques can be

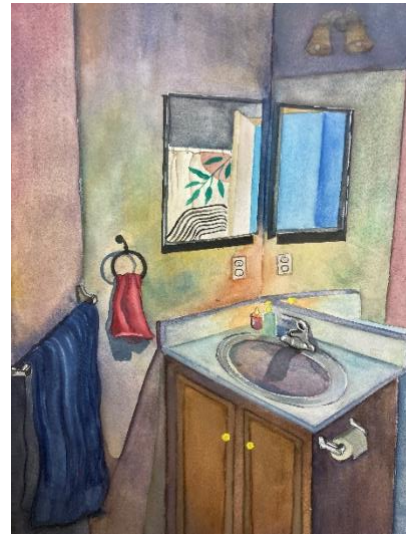
learned through practice. There is a delicate balance of control and spontaneity. The artist should know how much water to use, depending on how transparent or opaque they want a wash to be. A wash refers to a watercolor technique where the paint is diluted and applied in smooth, even layers. Overall, watercolor is a unique medium because the layering of colors over top of each other allows for richness and depth. Watercolor was the most appropriate medium for this series, as I felt it would give the paintings the sense of luminosity that they needed.

In preparation for a painting, I always turn to other artists for inspiration. For this particular series, I was inspired by the works of Stephanie Pierce and Kayla Martell, both of whom are oil painters. I was drawn to the way Pierce breaks down a space into shapes and colors, as well as the way she creates quick expressions of movement. I referred to Martell's work when planning my compositions, as I think she does a great job of guiding the eye through the painting. Additionally, I love her color palette and sense of light and shadow.



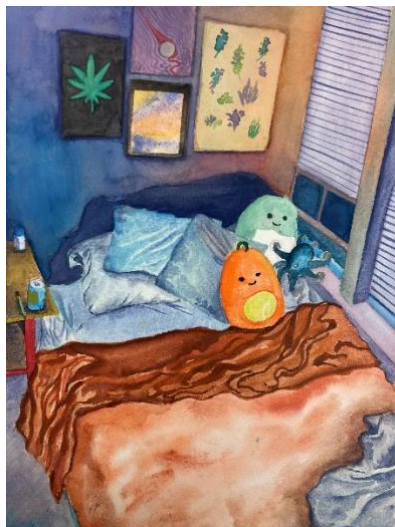
Kitchen Interior, 2023
Watercolor on paper

The first painting in the series is of my kitchen. My vision for this piece was to capture the feeling of wandering into a dimly lit kitchen late at night while in a state between being asleep and being awake. Large blocks of bright light peer inside, and there is a small view of the outside world from the kitchen window.



Bathroom Interior, 2023
Watercolor on paper

I painted my bathroom next. In our bathrooms, we perform our daily routines such as washing our faces and brushing our teeth. But at night, a glimpse in the mirror unveils a distorted reality. My features take on a haunting quality. Realistically, I know that nothing is lurking in the shadows, yet I can't help but feel a sense of uncertainty and alertness. To capture the eeriness of the atmosphere, I created a slight vignette around the edges of the piece, guiding the eye inward through the centrally lit composition.



Bedroom Interior, 2023
Watercolor on paper

The final room I painted was my bedroom. I think most people would agree that their bedroom is their sanctuary. I have a great appreciation for my time spent alone in my bedroom. I find it is an escape from the demands of everyday life, plus it is full of all my beloved items. At night, I feel completely immersed in my solitude. The world slows down, allowing for deep introspection, productivity, and inspiration to flourish. I used intensely saturated colors to convey a sense of passion. I made sure to define the textures in the bedding as I wanted the bed to appear as the main focal point, evoking feelings of safety and comfort.

In this series, each painting serves as a reminder to pause, reflect, and appreciate the ordinary moments that make up the fabric of our lives. Viewers are invited to seek the beauty of everyday living spaces. Through this exploration of liminality amidst the nocturnal environment, I hope the viewer can find meaning and solace in moments of transition.