



PEOPLEWATCHING: An Exercise in Empathy

Fiona Begley, Rob Duarte, College of Fine Arts, Florida State University



WHAT IS IT?

This series is a collection of moments which come from the lives of others. The final collection represents the depth and constant flow of lives other than our own while presenting real people as the main characters of their lives.

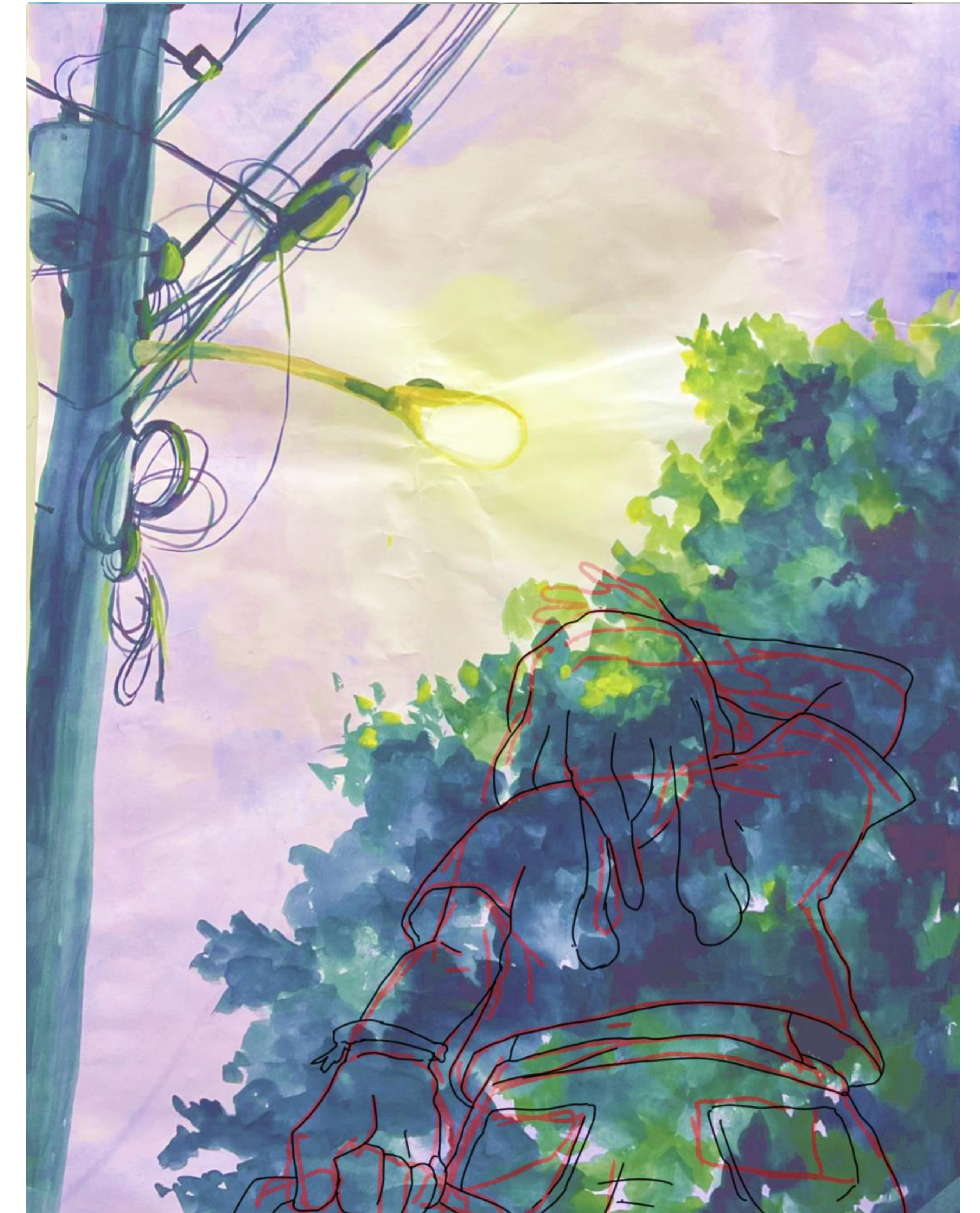
In a setting where each work is installed alongside one another, the viewer can immerse themselves in a style of peoplewatching meant to incite an empathetic or thoughtful response. The format references classic 2D animated films, with flat characters and painted backgrounds, in order to help accomplish this main idea.



CREATION PROCESS

The first step in my process was to spend time collecting the moments foundational to each work. I spent a great deal of time peoplewatching, observing everyday interactions for moments that felt profound because they could function as a window into another person's life. After these were collected, I spent weeks planning, painting, and animating each piece.

A critical amount of my time was spent comparing styles of animation that complemented the main idea. In the end, subtle movement that looped seamlessly worked the best.



TAKEAWAYS

As this research would form the basis for my thesis works, I emphasized experimenting with my presentation to find the best way to display the works. Initial plans to project on top of each piece were something that I found to be unnecessary in the end- the use of digital screens, like TVs, strengthened my idea without distracting from it in a museum setting. As I continue to make these artworks for my thesis show this Fall, this project has also helped me to gauge what works for my audience and what does not.