SUBURBAN NARRATIVES: A PAINTING SERIES
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Using suburbia as a setting, this series of paintings explores some of the economic paradigms and social constructs that make up contemporary society. With a focus on male roles, these paintings question consumption, comfort, violence, hubris, sexuality and control.

Starting with photo sources, I utilized drawing as a way to work through ideas and establish composition. I discovered that Google Maps was an effective way to view and sketch suburban neighborhoods around the country. I worked from architectural magazines to draw interiors. Referencing these drawings, I created simplified abstractions of domestic habitats. For the human figure, I found the work of photography pioneer Eadweard Muybridge to be inspirational. Elements of his series *The Human Figure In Motion* were used as source material for the human figures in my paintings.

Paintings in this series started with placement of collage elements or traditional drawing. Developing multiple panels simultaneously, I worked back and forth between these two approaches. This kept the compositions fresh and usually resulted in a combination of flat and illusionistic space. I used mixed media as a way to reference and analyze contemporary life. Bringing attention to an economic system of over-consumption, collage elements were pulled from everyday advertisements. Re-contextualizing items like junk mail highlighted the insignificant in our daily life.

I made my initial drawings with charcoal and used watered-down gesso to correct errors. This layer was then coated with acrylic sealer and painted over with an acrylic glaze or more opaque paint. This process went back and forth as necessary and is the stage in which the majority of the picture is developed. The final layer of paint is oil paint and meant to clarify and refine elements in the painting that are most visually important.