



# ENCUMBRANCE

DARREL MANIS- MFA THESIS EXHIBITION - PAINTING

NOV 21 – DEC 12, 2025

MOSS-THORNS GALLERY, HAYS, KS

RECEPTION: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH, 10:00-2:00 P.M.



# ARTIST'S STATEMENT

The emotional weight of our experiences, trauma, and vulnerable moments often leaves us feeling physically and mentally encumbered. Yet it is not these burdens that define us, but how we carry them. The figures in my work often embody this vulnerability, revealing truths that might otherwise remain hidden.

From a young age, men in our society are often taught to suppress emotions rather than process them. This cultural conditioning informs my use of idiomatic titles. Idioms, while familiar, tend to generalize or diminish deep emotional realities. By illustrating these phrases, I aim to critique their oversimplification and expose the complex emotions they conceal.

Recurring motifs such as birds and eggs symbolize the burdens we carry. They are fragile yet precious, light yet significant. Like the thin shell of an egg, life itself is delicate and transient. When broken, the yolk represents an expression of intense emotion, such as anger, jealousy, or a moment slipping through your fingers.

The act of expressing emotional weight, through conversation or creative practice, can feel like releasing a bird from its cage. The type of bird, the colors of its plumage, and its physical state all carry symbolic meaning. In cultures around the world, certain birds are seen as symbols of peace. Others, as harbingers of grief.

Working within Contemporary Realism, and inspired by artists such as Andrew Wyeth, Bo Bartlett, and Alyssa Monks, I depict subjects with detailed realism infused with symbolic, dreamlike imagery. Lighting, color, and brushwork are key to shaping the emotional tone of each piece. While painting remains central to my practice, some ideas that require physical context inspire an expansion into a third dimension. Sculpture allows me to extend these concepts into space, where material choices add further layers of meaning and presence.

The result of my studies is a body of work that emphasizes the subliminal male desire for connection with their emotions and the expression of things we, as men, are often too afraid to accept. Acknowledging the weight of our encumbrances and recognizing the validity of our emotions are vital to the human experience. Through my work, I aim to shoulder these long-carried burdens to the surface.





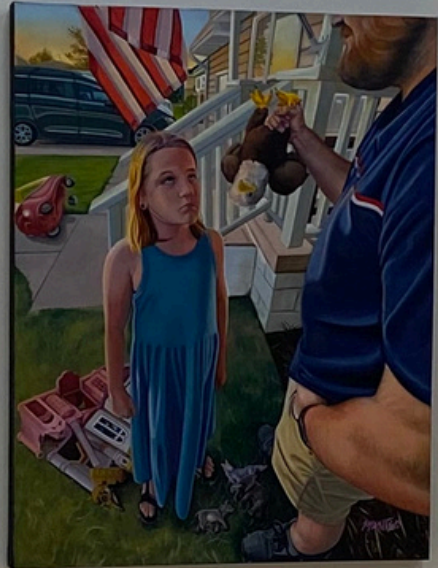
















***“Icarus”***

Darrel Manis

Stainless Steel Casting

2023

2.5" x 10.5"





*“My Brothers Keeper”*

Darrel Manis

Oil on Canvas

2024

57.5" x 48"

**MT**  
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& The Patricia A. Schmidt Gallery Lobby





*“Break a Few Eggs”*

Darrel Manis

Oil on Wood Panel

2025

16" x 20"

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*“Leaving the Nest”*

Darrel Manis

Bronze Casting and Iron Casting

2025









*“Egg on Your Face,  
Sunny Side Up”*

Darrel Manis

Acrylic on Canvas

2024

72" x 43.25"

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*“Bird in Hand I”*

Darrel Manis

Acrylic on Canvas

2025

42" x 24"





## **“Give Em’ The Bird (What We Leave Behind)”**

Darrel Manis

Oil on Canvas

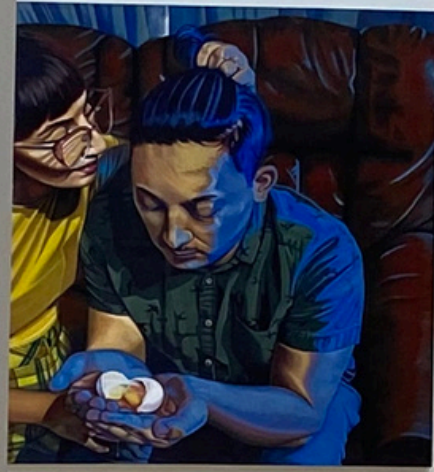
2024

38" x 30"

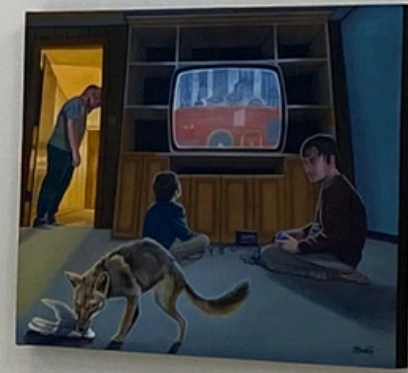




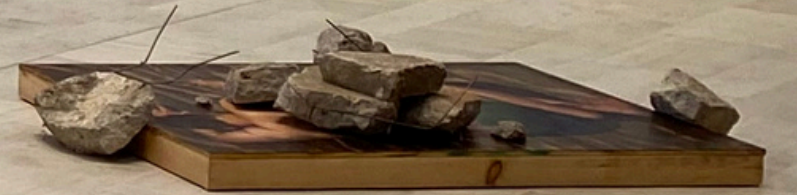
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DATE







***“All Your Eggs in One Basket”***

Darrel Manis

Acrylic on Canvas

2025

48" x 63"

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*“Patris et Filii”*

Darrel Manis

Acrylic on Canvas

2025

40" x 34"





*“Walking on Eggshells  
(Look at the Mess We’ve Made)”*

Darrel Manis

Acrylic on Canvas

2025

40" x 34"

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*“Birds of a Feather  
(Building a life together)”*

Darrel Manis

Oil on Wood Panel

2025

36" x 48"

MT

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***“Walking on Eggshells II”***

Darrel Manis

Watercolor on Paper

2025





*Stages of Grief: Bargaining*  
11" x 14"  
Acrylic on mixed panel  
2025  
\$200.00



*Stages of Grief: Denial*  
11" x 14"  
Acrylic on mixed panel  
2025  
\$200.00



*Stages of Grief: Depression*  
11" x 14"  
Acrylic on mixed panel  
2025  
\$200.00



*Stages of Grief: Anger*  
11" x 14"  
Acrylic on mixed panel  
2025  
\$200.00



*Stages of Grief: Acceptance*  
11" x 14"  
Acrylic on mixed panel  
2025  
\$200.00





***“Stages of Grief: Bargaining”***

Darrel Manis

Acrylic

2025

11" x 14"

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*“Stages of Grief: Anger”*

Darrel Manis

Acrylic

2025

11" x 14"

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*“Stages of Grief: Depression”*

Darrel Manis

Acrylic on Wood Panel

2025

11" x 14"

MT

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*“Stages of Grief: Denial*

Darrel Manis

Acrylic on Wood Panel

2025

11" x 14"

MT

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*“Stages of Grief: Acceptance”*

Darrel Manis

Acrylic on Wood Panel

2025

11" x 14"

**MT**  
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***“Beneath The Weight of Expectations”***

Darrel Manis

Acrylic and Wood Burning Torch on Plywood

2025

18" x 24"





## **“A Bird In Hand II”**

Darrel Manis

Pastel on Sandpaper

2025

18" x 24"

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*“Light as a Feather”*

Darrel Manis

Cast Iron and Found Object

2025

8.5" 15" x 7"





***“Orpheus In Mourning”***

Darrel Manis

Oil Painting Triptych on  
Plywood Panel,  
Gold Gilding

2024

45.25" x 57.5"

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***“The Fall of Troy”***

Darrel Manis

Bronze Casting and Medium -  
Benisity Fire Board

2025

55.5" x 22" x 22"





He is gone

You can shed tears that he is gone  
Or you can smile because he has lived

You can close your eyes and pray that he will come back  
Or you can open your eyes and see all that he has left

Your heart can be empty because you can't see him  
Or you can be full of the love that you shared

You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday  
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday

You can remember him and only that he is gone  
Or you can cherish his memory and let it live on

You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back  
Or you can do what he would want: smile, open your eyes, love and go on.

-David Hawkins

The Fall of Troy

In Memoriam

**Troy EuGene Manis**

January 20, 1993 - June 28, 1996





*“Fixations I”*

Pastel and watercolor on  
Sandpaper

2022

11.5" x 15"

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*Fixation II*  
11 1/2" x 15"  
Paint and watercolor on cardstock  
2009  
\$200.00



*Fixation I*  
11 1/2" x 15"  
Paint and watercolor on cardstock  
2009  
\$200.00





***“Fixations II”***

Darel Manis

Pastel and watercolor on Sandpaper

2022

11.5" x 15"

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***“Scatterbrained”***

Darel Manis

Acetone Transfer, oil pastel and watercolor  
on watercolor paper

2022

14" x 11"





*“The Reminisce Festival”*

Darrel Manis

Acrylic on Canvas

2022

4' x 5'

MT

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**“A Queen, Resplendent on  
Her Throne”**

Darrel Manis

Watercolor on Paper

2023

19" x 27"

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*“A Worthy Opponent”*

Darrel Manis

Watercolor on Paper

2023

27" x 19"





*“If The Shoe Fits..”*

Darrel Manis

Iron Casting

2024

19" x 60" x 29"





*“Effigy of a Former Husband”*

Darrel Manis

Oil on Wood Panel,

Acrylic Latex Paint on Plywood

2023

80" x 24" x 18"









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**Gallery Director**

**Colin Schmidtberger**

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**Toni Leiker**

**Elli Brandt**