

**Name:** Connor Donald Dietrich Rothe

**Age:** 20

**Summary of work/Artist Statement:**

My name is Connor Rothe, I am a first-year Drawing and Painting student at OCAD University. My work is informed by finding the beauty of the subtle amongst the pessimistic reality we live in. Despite using seemingly chaotic compositions, I attempt to communicate feelings of fleeting happiness through individual marks. While my three submissions vary in medium and composition, they each describe feelings of disconnect and confusion.

The first work speaks to the division in our society where many people refuse to believe the reality of this pandemic we're in, they continue to disobey requirements of wearing masks and social distancing. This drawing is meant to illustrate my perception of these people as ignorant, and ultimately, disgusting in their lack of civil responsibility.

The second work describes the disconnect we have all been experiencing due to the barriers of the virus. Despite the two figures being connected in the composition, they seem distant, not acknowledging each other. This is representational of our day-to-day throughout the pandemic, although we continue to encounter people, we are hesitant to interact with them, often looking through or past them.

The last piece shows the depersonalization that results from overwhelmingness of current times. COVID-19 has brought new challenges and complications, it's hard to keep your mind from racing about the uncertainties of the future. The overlapping figures create a complex dynamic where you aren't sure exactly what you're looking at.

In each of my submissions, there's a certain amount of stress and discomfort. Amidst the discomfort and intensity of the works, there is a balance brought by the subtleties. It's only upon further inspection that the viewer is able to find serenity within the works. I think this is representational of the last year. At first, the pandemic was terrifying and people didn't know how to react. Only after people had time to adjust did they find some calm within the storm. The loss and challenges of the pandemic are almost unthinkable, but we each must navigate our path through it.