

Utility Lines

By

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In

Studio Art

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This thesis has been examined and approved by the following members of the student's committee.

Advisor, Liz Miller

Committee Member, Areca Roe

Committee Member, Brandon Cooke

Carolyn Hartwell
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Artist Statement

The paintings included in this Thesis Exhibition explore the theme of fragility that retains quiet strength. Combining delicacy with tenacity is how I arrived at the name of the exhibition, *Utility Lines*. A utility line transfers energy and is vulnerable to both weather and accident; its fragile materiality is the weakness inherent to its functionality. In my work, I am deciding how much responsibility for the stability of a composition can be carried by its most tenuous elements. I test how much of the emotional and compositional load of a painting can be born by muted colors, awkward shapes and unsteady lines. My paintings are about building powerful abstract compositions from vulnerable parts. My goal is to present the expansive power of intimate scenes and to demonstrate that monumentality is possible on a small scale.