

Sarah Kang '21

*Conversations with my
Dad, 2020*

Oil on canvas

ART 500

"Most of the time I paint or draw I use still lifes or people around me as subjects. For this project I wanted to tackle a

completely different subject matter; I heavily referenced images that hold personal memories and attempted to abstract the images. I took influence from some of my favorite Instagram photographers and put a heavy emphasis on color and brightness throughout the piece. I wanted to paint a scene that conveys emotion rather than a clear-cut image. I hope to continue this series in the future.



This painting was done using water soluble oil paint on a 4 x 6 inch canvas. I chose this medium because I wanted to experiment with blendability and color range as I had not had the chance to in my ART400 class.

The image in the painting describes the blurring of cars on the New Jersey interstate highways outside of New York. Because I wanted this painting to portray emotion, I wanted to pick a place most impactful towards me.

Growing up in an Asian-American household, it was hard to express my feelings or difficulties to my parents. I wasn't sure whether it was the monotonous sound of cars or the heaviness of silence that drove me to talk, but drives on the interstate with my dad turned into the only times I felt comfortable sharing what was going on in my life. Living at Exeter, I

don't get to have many of these conversations anymore; I think this painting was a way to revisit those long car rides. Using this piece, I wanted to describe that bittersweet feeling of watching the cars blur while waiting for my dad's response. The sky is dark while the lights turn into a blur. Tension in the car is high, but it's bright and the light is warm. Things are looking up."

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