



In the Studio & on Gallery Walls

Snow and light on a mountain ridge
in the Chugach Range near Cordova,
Alaska, on April 11, 2011, taken while
Jonathan Selkowitz '84 was on assignment with
a Warren Miller Entertainment film crew.

8 PROFESSIONAL **ALUMNI ARTISTS**

The Taft alumni community includes many professional visual artists. We've highlighted a few of them here to share a sampling of their creative work with our readers.



Jonathan Selkowitz '84 and his beloved dog Lucy, photographed by longtime friend Bryan Salatino.

JONATHAN SELKOWITZ '84
photographer

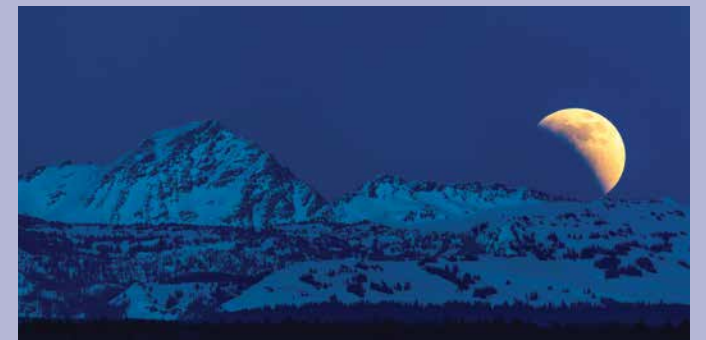
www.selkophoto.com

“I enjoy working with light, composition, and gesture to create visual impact in still photographs that communicate a slice of a story or an inspiration. Making photos is uniquely intriguing and satiating regardless of if I am using my iPhone or a professional camera.”



JONATHAN
SELKOWITZ '84

U.S. Ski Team member Lindsey Vonn beautifully bending her ski while charging down a giant slalom training course on Golden Peak in Vail, Colorado, on November 18, 2010.



The Super Flower Blood Moon lunar eclipse rising over the northern Teton Range near Ashton, Idaho, on May 15, 2022.

Another Day At Sea
oil on canvas, 60 x 50 in.



MATT PINNEY '96

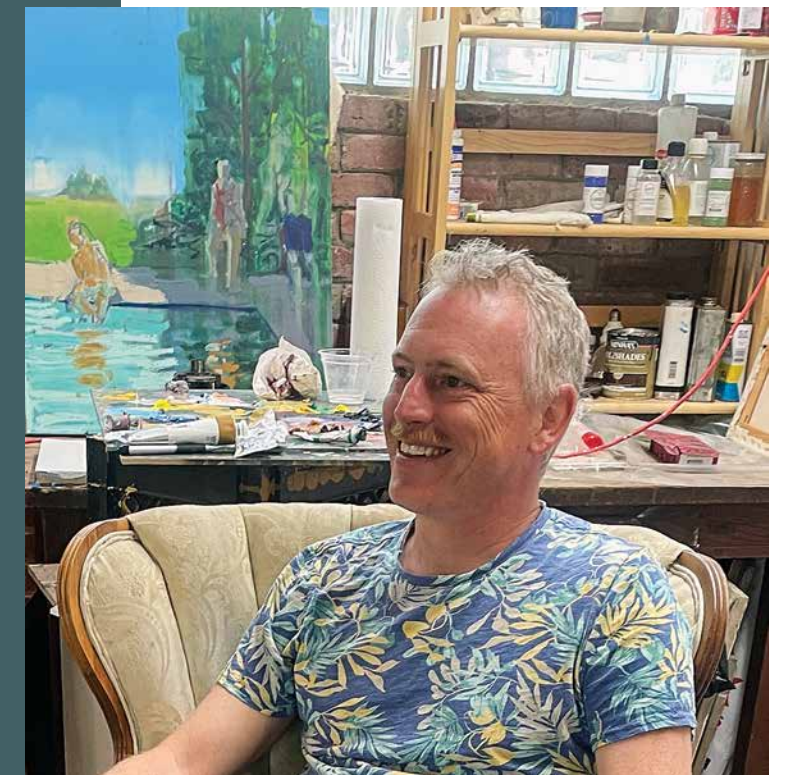


Revolutionaries
oil on aluminum UV print, 48 x 48 in.

Matt Pinney '96 in his studio.



Pushkin's Tale of the Gold Fish
oil on canvas, 48 x 60 in.



MATT PINNEY '96

professor of art
Northern Virginia Community College

mattpinney.com

“**M**aking a painting for me is about looking closer at the world around me. As I become more attuned to what’s around me, I see more of the beauty in nature, more of the humanity in people, and more hope for our society. Even in the darkest observations, with a little creativity, a path forward becomes visible.”

EILEEN B. MOONEY '96

artist/teacher

eileenmooney.com

“I paint mostly from perception, but I also experiment with more conceptual, abstract work. I think that across all of the different work that I do, I am trying to express being—being with the objects/landscape and the light. I don't want that to sound like more than what it is—I'm not trying to be too deep, but I do think that it is kind of contemplative. Painting from perception implies an artist's 'point of view,' but the objects and the landscape are already there, whether I am there or not. I, this painter that I am, am here, witnessing them, and my paintings express this moment of witnessing—of being—on canvas.”



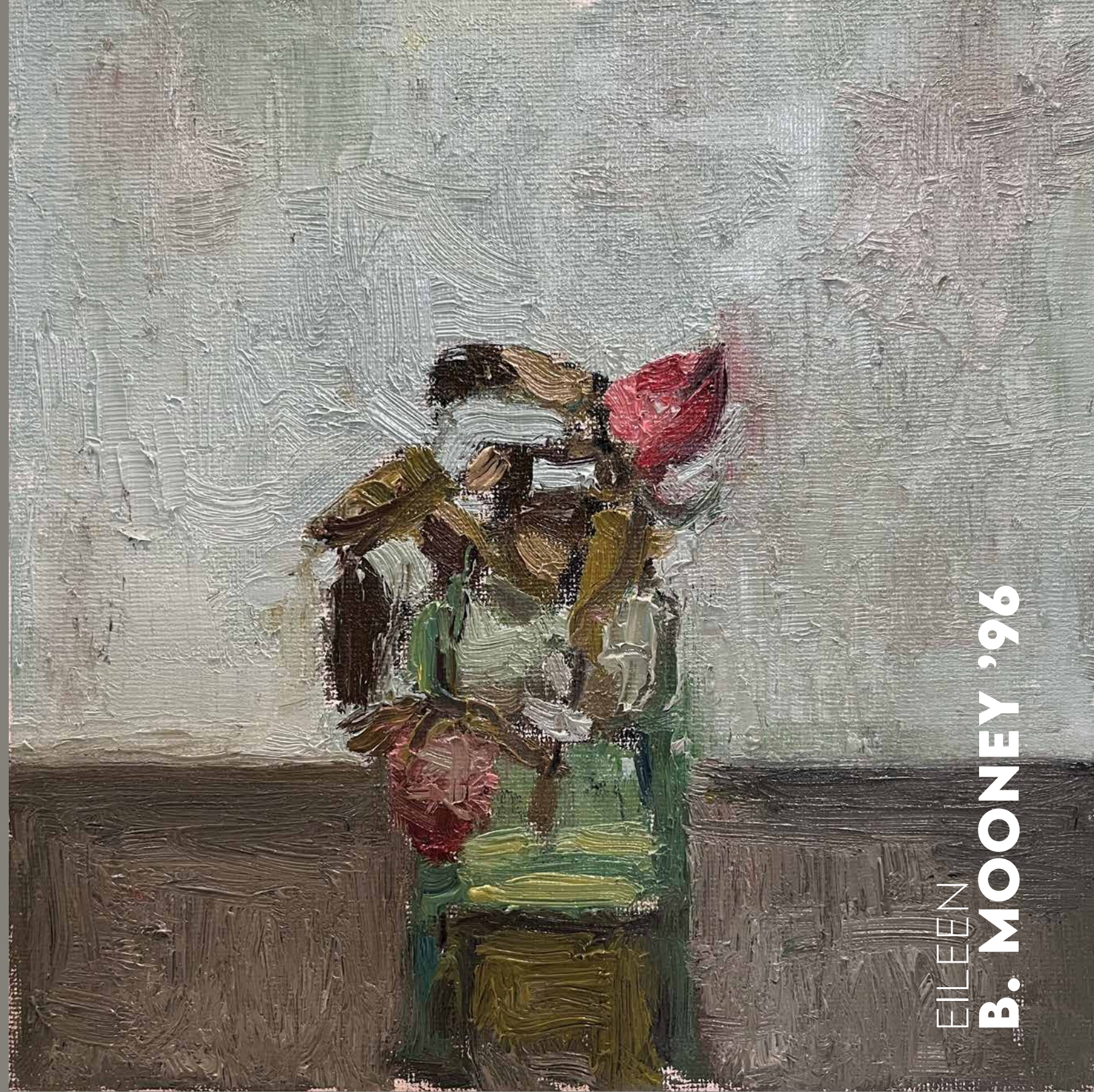
Colored Pencils in a Glass
acrylic on wood panel, 12 x 12 in.



Eileen Mooney '96 with her work at the Bowery Gallery in 2023.

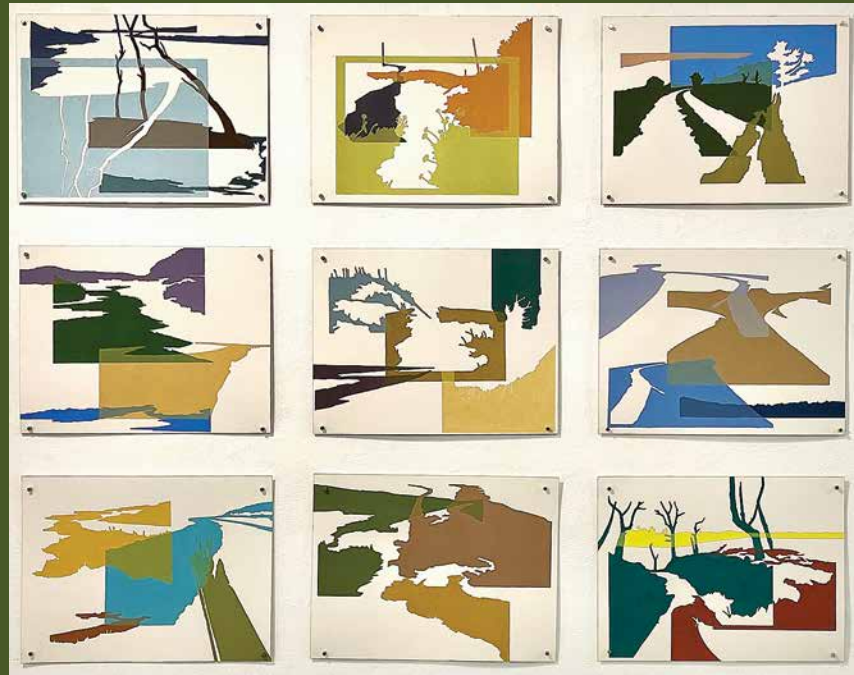


Acorn Squash, Dried Roses in a Green Glass Bottle, Paper, and String
oil on wood panel, 9¼ x 14¾ in.

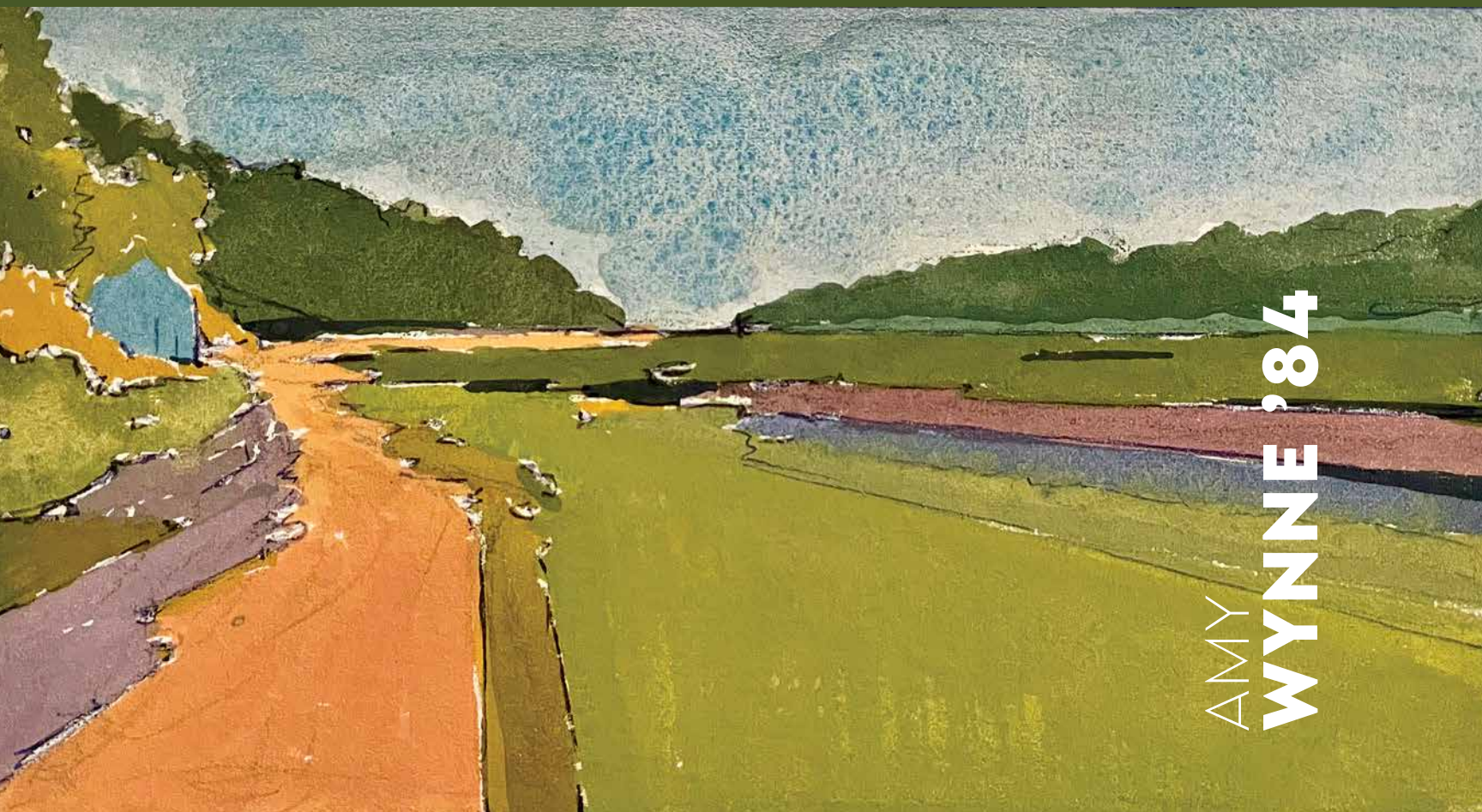


Dried Roses in a Green Glass Bottle
oil on canvas, 8 x 8 in.

EILEEN
B. MOONEY '96



Walking the Land
Flashe on paper



Pamet River
Gouache on paper

AMY
WYNNE '84



Amy Wynne '84 at work in her studio.
MILES BURNETT

AMY WYNNE '84

artist

amywynne.com

“**M**y creative process is an attempt to generate the bravery and momentum to communicate what it means to be human in relationship to impermanence. Making things is my vehicle for expressing and understanding that intimate relationship authentically.

“My recent work includes color data, poetry, collage, and paintings, which I consider ‘Systems of Presence.’ These pieces are inspired by ‘awe walks’ in nature, mapping my experience moving through space and time. The speed of our existence leaves us with fleeting glimpses of nature. Walking is a touchstone, an invitation to slow down and pay attention. This practice has resulted in layers of perceptual memories...emerging in sequence and transforming over time.

“This newest work is about interconnection...interbeing. It is a visual manifestation of my deep love and gratitude for the natural world and how walking the landscape has taught me over and over how to begin again.”

KENDALL AYOUB NICHOLS '92
contemporary portrait artist

kendallayoubnichols.com
Instagram: @kendallayoubnicholsartist

“I enjoy documenting and reflecting the contemporary culture I live in by painting representational portraits. I am currently focused on a series of paintings of women. I am highlighting activities and jobs various women are engaging and excelling in, especially those seen as stereotypically male—they are wilderness guides, athletes, restaurant and business owners. I believe that producing these works celebrates the progress women have already achieved through dedication and hard work. A few years ago, I captured the youthful attitudes and energy of my two children, Tom and Sam.”



Thomas
November 2018, oil on canvas, 36 x 60 in.



Kendall Ayoub Nichols '92 in her studio
THOMAS NICHOLS



Sisters
October 2023, oil on canvas, 18 x 24 in.

Wapokunie
November 2022, oil on canvas, 40 x 40 in.



KENDALL
AYOUB NICHOLS '92



Utah Jazz
2023, collage



Mural
Capital One Headquarters, Tyson's Corner, Virginia

JD DEARDOURFF '04
artist/
screen printer/
muralist
deardourff.com

“I like working with colors that give your eyeballs a sunburn.”



Baja Blast
2023, collage



JD Deardourff '04
screen printing.



Heather Capen Cox '90 in her studio.



Old School Division Street
oil on canvas, 36 x 48 in.

HEATHER CAPEN COX '90

painter

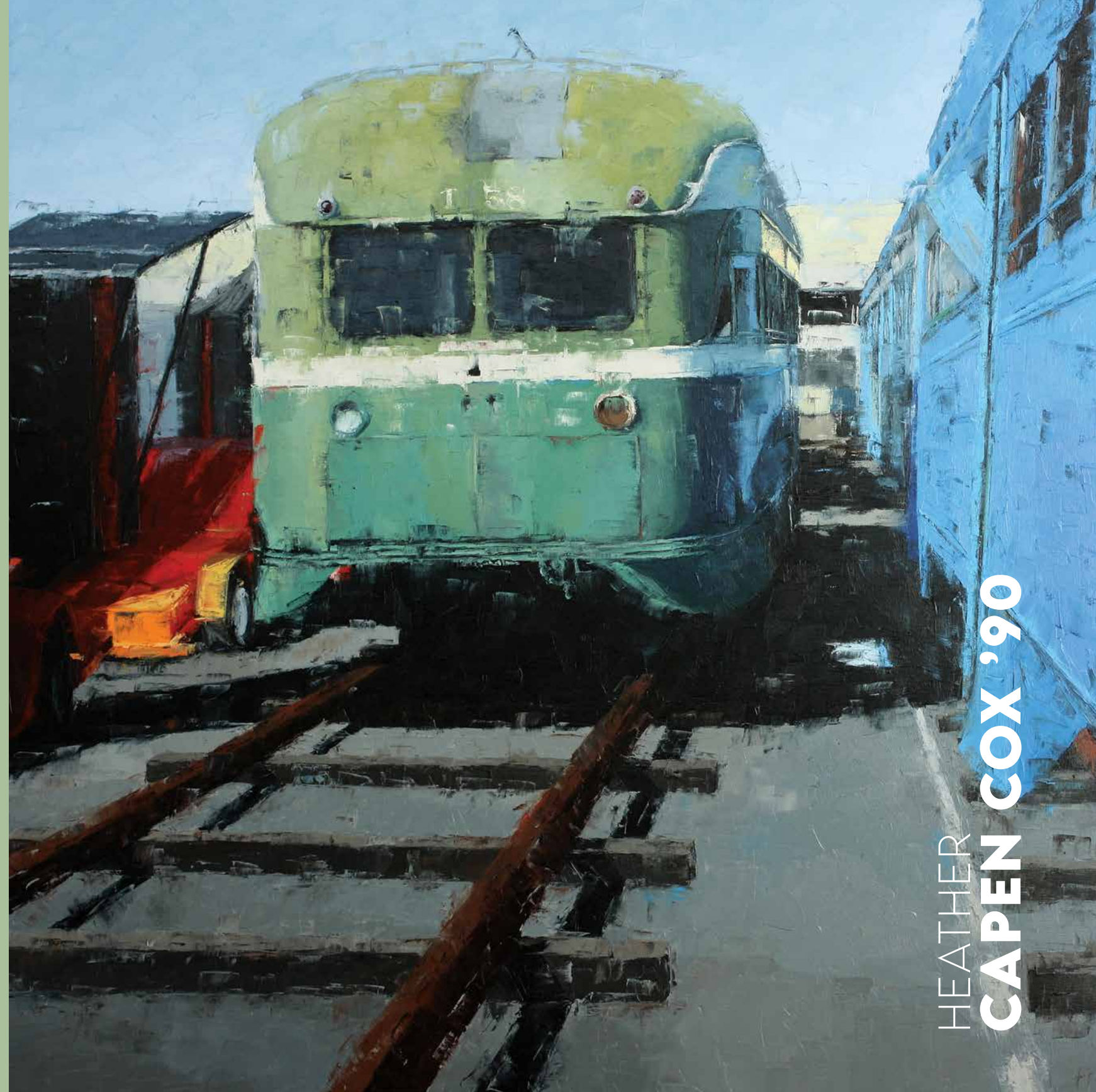
heathercapen.com

“I have always loved art in all forms. As a child, I was an avid drawer, and when I arrived at Taft, I learned the craft of batik from Mrs. Wynne, and Mr. Potter taught me how to paint with oils, which I love to this day. I was an art major in college, with a focus on oil painting, and then went on to pursue a master's in landscape architecture. My work is greatly influenced by my career as a landscape architect, where I learned to appreciate the overlap of history, topography, cultures, and nature that occurs in an urban environment.

“Responding to certain sites that might otherwise be overlooked, I enjoy capturing the appeal and life of these settings in an ever challenging creative pursuit of oil painting.”



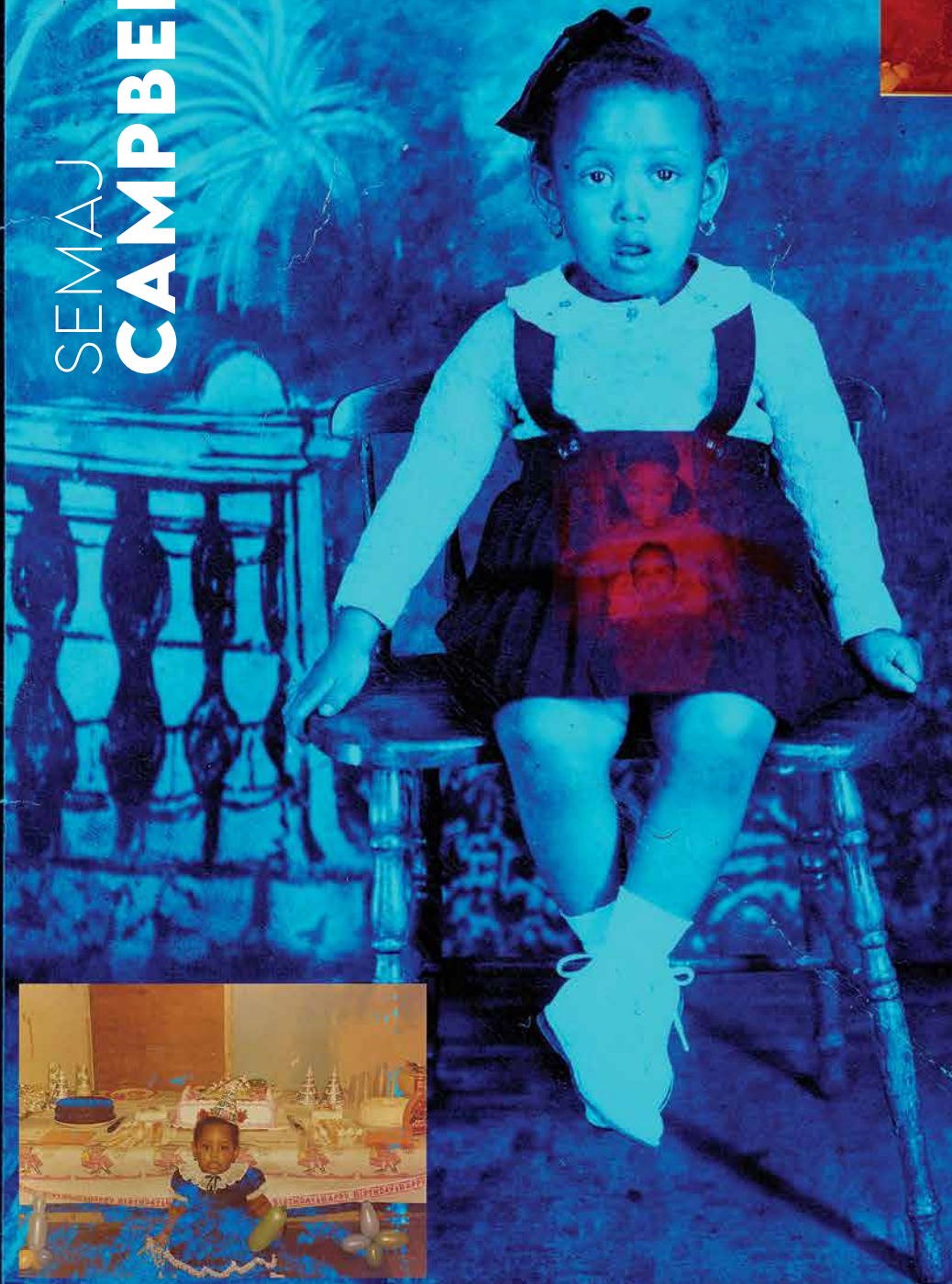
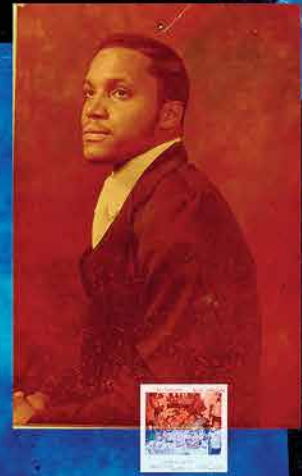
Ocean Park Motel
oil on canvas, 30 x 40 in.



Orange, Green, Blue, No. 3
oil on canvas, 48 x 48 in.

HEATHER
CAPEN COX '90

SEMAJ
CAMPBELL '14



Origins
2022, digital collage



Daddy's Girl
2021, photograph



Snuggles
2021, photograph



Semaj Campbell '14 in his studio.

SEMAJ CAMPBELL '14

photographer/teacher

semajcampbellphotography.com

My first exposure to photography occurred during my senior year at Taft. Since then, photography has become a fundamental part of my life—a medium that has helped me navigate the world.

“It has provided me with a way to express what I find important and has given me a new voice and connection to others. Photography has also served as a form of meditation, allowing me to question and reflect on my decisions and tendencies. It slows me down and enables me to be present.

“I also have the opportunity to teach it to high school students. As a [high school] educator, I relish in opening young minds to various forms of expression. Often, young men are conditioned to believe they must fit into one category—smart, athletic, or artistic—but rarely all three. I encourage my students to pursue all aspects, just as I did by participating in [sports] while also pursuing my passion for the arts.”