

Ja Miller

The Grace and the Impatience to Wait (Not Yet as Light as Hope)

The Grace and the Impatience to Wait (Not Yet as Light as Hope) is an abstract expressionist work in response to the song “What is the Rush?” by Tina Boonstra. Most of my work as an artist and film maker is heavily inspired and influenced by music.

This painting explores the idea that moving too quickly and unintentionally through life can lead to a series of unintended consequences, including a loss of identity, purpose, and deeper joy in life. As our rituals slowly (and silently) become routines, our sense of wonder disappears, and meaningful moments become harder to find.

Abstract expressionist painting is a very emotional and soul-baring process, and this piece contains my interpretation of Boonstra’s music and lyrics through my “voice” as it is “written” on the canvas in the language of color, texture, and a few actual words.

The Grace and the Impatience to Wait (Not Yet as Light as Hope) began as a profound feeling the first time I heard “What is the Rush?” I think this artwork was stored up in me from the very first listen, something that stirred deeply in me and that I knew would eventually find it’s way out as a work of art. As we move through life—which very seldom is drawn using straight lines—maybe we can find a way to slow down and turn those routines back into rituals again.