

## Artists Statement

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# DAVE BASCOM

*My recent work is intertwined with the idea that everyone and everything is interconnected. These thoughts stem from the knowledge that everyone is made of the same materials and affected by the same forces. My body is made of particles that have previously been part of other beings, and will move on from my body even while I am still alive. There are more bacteria cells than human cells in each of our bodies, and we cannot live without them. I eat the flesh of animals and plants, which become part of my body, and other material leaves. I am unsure where my physical body begins and ends.*

*As nebulous as I now find the definition of my corporeal form, the mental construct that is “I” is even more diaphanous. The me I think I am is a collection of thoughts and ideas that have bubbled up to the surface of a lifetime of experience. When I am considering the Theory of Relativity, for example, is this thought of myself, or is it a manifestation of the teacher who explained it to me long ago? Or is Einstein possibly living on in me in that moment? I tend to think that all of these are true, at least in a way. A human being cannot be defined without humanity.*

*This interconnectivity extends beyond just people. While we humans share a special bond, we are all connected to animals, and even non-living objects in the same ways. My perception of a chair makes that chair a part of who I am. Likewise, that chair would not exist as such without me there to recognize it. Animals not only exist with us as an integral element of our ecosystem, but their lives traverse the same storylines as ours. From birth to death, reproduction and consumption, the most basic human traits are shared with beings of all species. Animals can also exhibit a sense of morality and social structure. Perhaps what separates us most from the natural world is the misconception that we are somehow separate.*

*In my opinion, the best way to comprehend the human condition is through self-analysis. Everything we experience is filtered through our own senses and preconceptions, which makes understanding ourselves a prerequisite to obtaining any real knowledge. The beauty of this arrangement is that knowing oneself is the foundation of empathy, which is indispensable when investigating the interconnectivity of the world.*

*As a painter, I find the act of painting a very valuable tool for self-analysis. It is important to understand why I am drawn to a particular subject or why I see things in a certain way. I don't ever fully understand why I decide to paint something when I begin, but it becomes more apparent as I work. This understanding informs my paint handling, which also helps me learn about my fascination with the subject. Painting forces me to confront elements of myself as I work. The sustained concentration on a single subject required to resolve a painting forces me to endure more of this confrontation than I otherwise would.*

*I blend the boundaries of the traditional figure/ground relationship in my paintings to allude to their sameness. The interconnectivity of all things naturally leads to a blending of an individual and their respective environment, and I try to reflect this in my compositions. I wish to demonstrate my perspective on the rather porous and impermanent nature of existence with my work.*