

Veronica Rockstrom

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

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One of the biggest visual influences for my work is inspired by people illuminated only by a dim glow (like that of a candle or fireflies) at night, and the number of stars one can see without light pollution. The soft contours that dim lighting can carve out of eyes, cheeks, lips are something that will always captivate me.

In my recent solo exhibition entitled "Out of Darkness", I explore this visual influence by beginning with a black canvas and then gradually adding lighter and lighter colors in a series of glazes to create my image. Somewhere along the way I began to see this process as a healing experience for myself; using the blackness of the canvas being my emotional state and my struggles at the time. The gradual lightening of the canvas depicts the lessons I have walked away with.

A major focus in my work is figurative painting and illustration with sci-fi and surrealist undertones. In one of my favorite pieces *The Collective*, I have painted a figure that appears frequently in my dreams. She is a benevolent spirit that embodies the concept of "singularity." For her design, I tried to create my rendition of a higher power by using iconography from many major religions, paganism, and animism. In other works from the "Out of Darkness" series such as *The Unapologetic Woman* and *Fissure* I explore the concept of the divine feminine and blend it with graphic design elements and surrealism by using crisp, linear lines in my details, and taking my figures and shrinking them, disembodying them, and throwing them into

space. I see myself exploring this technique for a long time and continuing the "Out of Darkness" series.
