

Brad Greenwood

My paintings aim to utilize figuration, abstraction, myth, and reality in equal parts.

For years, I painted figures undergoing transformation. Whether they are personified animals (the wolf appears most frequently), shape shifters, or something more human, all of the characters exist on multiple physical and psychological planes. Energetic, thick brushstrokes, graphite, and washy paint hover above judiciously exposed wood grain, leaving the viewer unsure as to whether the narrative is emerging or being absorbed. On a deeper level, the characters exist in a liminal state between the past and present, literature, myth, and contemporary existence

Personal narratives are integral to my work. Love stories, star charts, and my dedication to painting after years of working a dual role as arts administrator/painter all influence the content of my work. However, there is never a single, dominating narrative. My paintings are scenes in a play with actors coming on and off the stage, drawing upon my personal story but also fed by my deep fondness of art history. While each character is uniquely my own, the figures often co-mingle with iconic likenesses from paintings by Matisse, Hockney, Basquiat, and others. I hope to blend fact and fiction to create new portraits.

Ultimately, the pieces function as narratives of personal emotion complicated by a deep and energizing love of paint and the history of art.