

Artist Statement
Rachel Campbell
Strangely Normal
ZINC contemporary
March 24 - April 28, 2018

I think of my work as similar to that of a poet who writes about the everyday, but instead of words, I express myself in paint. I engage in narratives. I'm reflecting on stories I have been told or experiences I have had. Humor is often prevalent in the work—often with a sense of playfulness around things that are common and ordinary. In my most recent work I am commenting on the importance of joy and celebration in life and how this is critical to our wellbeing. My paintings are landscapes, so whether they are traditional landscape or they depict food, or portraits of objects, these are all a form of landscape to me. I paint about the relationships between elements and our relationship to those narrative elements.

Much of my work has a central recurring theme—the sense of belonging we all desire, to feel understood, to be seen, to be accepted. No matter what an environment might be, it has at some time been an important space to someone. I am particularly drawn to trailers and trailer parks, which are repetitive or generic in design, but individual in presentation. As a metaphor, I see them representing the desire we have to be valued as individuals, to create beauty in sometimes small ways. They describe to me that none of us wants to be marginalized or overlooked.

Color is a critical component to my work. I am a colorist, and I constantly work on exploring the relationships of colors, the emotive effect of color, the temperature of color. Color is a very important consideration for me in the stories I am describing. I use paint in degrees of thickness, from gestural washes alongside thick describing paintwork pulling focus to the central elements of my story. I use abstraction of space and elements along with more rendered portions of the paintings.