

## Waterman: Coloring the Stranger: Jiyoun Lee-Lodge @ Granary Arts

Granary Arts, Ephraim, Utah // February 08, 2023 - May 05, 2023

February 08, 2023 | in Painting

Like 0

Share

Tweet





**Waterman: Coloring the Stranger** explores the adaptation of a stranger in a new place. Jiyoun Lee-Lodge began this series as a journal-like notation when she moved from New York to Utah, and struggled to settle in. The persona of Waterman acts as a stand-in for both personal and universal experience while referencing pop culture, and themes of alienation and belonging. Lee-Lodge began this multi-year series by asking: *"If I mimic what an ideal life looks like in a new place, will I blend in well?"*

She illustrates herself as shifting water that repels, absorbs, reflects – a figure struggling to find a place within its environment. The soft aspen backgrounds reflect her notions of "a better life" in Utah, traced in a delicate thin line as though it might dissolve into the scene when the viewer loses focus.

Inspired by Edward Hopper's works, Lee-Lodge continued to explore displacement, anxiety, and isolation throughout the pandemic. She was confined to her house, experiencing absolute solitude and loneliness in a space meant to provide comfort. She mediated her access to the outside world through a screen – a digital window – that acted as both a means of connection and a source of alienation. A window that opens to excess: ideas, information, the deluge of emojis, and the exhausting cacophony of what Bo Burham calls "anything and everything all of the time."

Lee-Lodge navigates alienation caused by the pursuit of an ideal life. In the film "Pleasantville" the story begins in black-and-white, reflecting a perfect, ideal, and emotionless world. As the primary character opens themselves to feeling, the world turns to color little by little. Lee-Lodge draws a parallel between her process of "coloring" the Waterman to an acceptance and transcendence of her hope for active and open communication among people, just like the film.

*Curated by Amy Jorgensen at Granary Arts*  
Works Available through [Modern West](#).













