

ELIJAH LEE ROSS

b. 2004, Kansas City, MO

Lives and Works in Chicago, IL

#### ARTIST STATEMENT

Through my painting, I attempt to lay tracks toward a ubiquitous human understanding of oneself and others. Working with archetypal human figures, I seek to create a Homunculus. A being sculpted of clay, an effigy, or an empty vessel for both, simultaneously allowing me to inject emotional and experiential moments, as the case may be, with the viewer. Inspired by personal experiences, these figures are autonomous in their actions on the canvas yet vacant enough to be inhabited and understood implicitly. Playing on the built-in ways we perceive and understand the world around us and the people we interact with. Attempting to touch into the “trauma of man”, to be thrown into the world, to experience. Their forms are plastic, vestigial mental echoes of primordial man, collective myth, and collective experience. Morphing and melding together like a bundle of muscles flexing in unison, the vague form of man that exists in the back of everyone’s mind. Graphic art and illustration inform the visual methodology used to convey these moments, furthering this extended study of the primeval consciousness, providing them accessibility in form and ambiguity in content.

“What is essential in a work of art is that it should rise far above the realm of personal life and speak to the spirit and heart of the poet as man to the spirit and heart of mankind.” - Carl Jung, “Modern Man in Search of a Soul,” p. 172, Psychology Press