

Artist's Statement

Isabella Moyer
University of British Columbia

Painting this piece, I hoped to capture the power of anthropology to bring us closer to the world around us— no matter how physically distant some of it may be. Of course, Machu Picchu, the Parthenon, and the Pyramids of Giza are not visible from the UBC Rose Garden, but in a way, we forge this proximity by learning about them.

I also wanted to include our own positionality and what we have around us, so in the foreground you can see some BC iconography like “Big Lonely Doug”— an old growth Douglas Fir that stands in a clearcut on Vancouver Island. Anthropology as a discipline gives us a unique perspective on the world, which emphasizes both local and global contexts, and conceptualizes specific times and places as moving parts in a bigger picture. By playing with the conventions of reality in this painting, I intended to represent how our studies make us familiar with otherwise unknown concepts, while also conveying the vastness of this field where we will always have more to learn.