

Jaclyn Conley

## Artist Statement

Initially animals roamed into the composition as figures that were not aged, gendered, of a specific time or place but which held a rich history of associations within cultural narratives. Their introduction positions these accounts clearly outside of reality or the everyday and into an imagined, but nonetheless familiar, space.

In recent painting, familial conflicts are played out by both domesticated and predatory animals. The compositions exist on the threshold of metaphor, suggesting the full range of human emotion and intelligence, yet still utterly animal. Beyond questioning the boundary between the two domains, I intend to drift freely over them, animalizing the viewer by inducing empathy with the non-human. Whether suggesting bouts of passion, violence or play, these pairings picture in grande Delacroix-ian modes, the emotion characteristically felt or enacted within the domesticated space.