

# Visual art

## The power of paint

**With the same media, two artists look inward to create mythic images.**

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Special to The Star

**W**hen poet T.S. Eliot said “genuine poetry can communicate before it is understood,” he meant that we recognize truth in rhythm and sound before we construct linguistic interpretation.

The same is true for painting: Color, mark, cadence and imagery evoke surges of emotion that precede intellectual understanding.

This power in oil paint to express what is mysterious and transcendent is evident

### REVIEW

in a new exhibit at Rachael Cozad Fine Art. “Angela Fraleigh and Davin Watne: New Work” inaugurates a series that will combine the work of an emerging artist from Kansas City with that of a more established artist from outside the region. Each pairing will be on display in Cozad’s airy and light-dappled home for six months.

Both Kansas City-based Watne and East Coast-based Fraleigh use oil paint as a vehicle to create mythic images — public dreams that defy predictable interpretation. Neither artist addresses autobiographical content, but both use elements from their inner lives as creative inspiration.

Upon entering the large dining area, the viewer is presented with two large paintings. Davin Watne’s “Cathexis Eye” faces Angela Fraleigh’s “You Weren’t Haunted Those Two Days, You Were Filled With Light.”



**Davin Watne says his “Cathexis Eye” addresses our attraction to advertising and our awareness of how it manipulates us.**

### On display

“Angela Fraleigh and Davin Watne: New Work” continues at Rachael Cozad Fine Art, 200 E. 30th St., through April 18. Hours are by appointment. For more information, call 816-308-9489 or visit [rachaelcozad.com](http://rachaelcozad.com)

Both artists use images as a framework upon which to hang paint, but each does so very differently.

The canvas of “Cathexis Eye” is diamond shaped. At

first glance, the work presents a single image of a female eye, heavily lidded, festooned with mascara and shimmering in metallic makeup. The painting begins



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER WETZEL | RACHAEL COZAD FINE ART

**Angela Fraleigh’s painting “You Weren’t Haunted Those Two Days, You Were Filled With Light” is part of a two-person show at Rachael Cozad Fine Art pairing works by East Coast- based Fraleigh and Kansas City artist Davin Watne.**

in matte, flat Caucasian flesh color that builds in luminosity as the geometric planes fracture. Near to the iris, the marks break down into almost Rorschach-like sym-

metrical patterning.

Up close, the marks evoke a J.M.W. Turner seascape, and the whiplash lines of the eyebrow become a beautiful excuse for linear mark mak-

ing. The imagery seems on the cusp of dissolving. Through beautiful and microscopic paint manipula-