



The self-taught multimedia artist's cubist paintings explore strength, fragility, control, and surrender. Giants' ten paintings are immense in scale, fitting for their narrative theme which takes inspiration from the story of David and Goliath. "Goliath was a physical giant, but giants come in forms that we don't always recognize. It can be pain, loss, and suffering," DeJardin muses. Rather than focusing on such giants, DeJardin's work centers guardians, the entities and forces that protect, guide, and challenge growth within.

His work in this series is not only a physical representation of this narrative, but a reflection of the ways the artist has embodied such ideals in his own approach to art. DeJardin elevates his work in subject matter, medium, and scale. The evolution of his sculptural practice is visible in his paintings, which range from intimate portraits to monumental tableaux. "Ultimately, I want art to be a tool that can be used for other people's healing. And healing is something that's more than just pulling yourself out of the mud. It's also shifting you into a new road and pushing you in a new direction."