



### Lights in the Darkness

A shade is drawn. The figures continue their movements and complete their tasks diligently. In the darkness, their inner light is appreciable. They glow for themselves, and for each other. They all glow differently: some are brighter and some are dimmer; some have more light to start with and some less; some fade faster and others more slowly. Regardless, they endure similarly.

Reflecting on the last year is like looking into a murky pond. Not everything recalls very clearly, and it overall seems much shrouded. It comes back to me only as represented in this painting: figures moving past each other, working constantly, trying to give light to others and to themselves. This light manifested in many ways, whether that was by increased companionship, support, displays of gratitude, being an open ear, bringing wellness into the workplace, and more. We tried to refill the cups of those who it was evident were draining, knowing that we ourselves were draining. Luckily, light is infinite, even though we don't harbor an infinite amount of it.

I chose a basic abstract, monochrome composition for this piece because although seeing us working during this past year seemed simple, there were many complexities beneath the surface. This project was meant to be created as a catharsis and a reminder. The sharp, high contrast contours are meant to give a feeling of harshness. The monochrome black and white gives a feeling of coldness, with a faded yellow used to give the glow of our inner lights, a little bit of emanating warmth. The composition is a few, dispersed people in a box, meaning to give a feeling of loneliness. Regardless of at what level someone observes this painting, hopefully they feel what I felt, and maybe it's a familiar feeling.