

The Altitude of Aspiration
by Breanna Josephison

My painting is a reimagining of an image from the poem “A White Man’s Burden” by Rudyard Kipling. I was shown this image early this term as a critique on the influence of media and society. I felt immediately inspired to recreate this image as it clearly demonstrates how one person’s views can negatively impact others. This ability to criticize and form our own opinions is what university education encourages: to build upon the pillars of knowledge and expand our ideas beyond previously believed truths. My painting shows an uphill struggle to reach a destination. Gaining knowledge is a journey towards equality. However, as seen in my painting, the stress of learning may weigh one down. Luckily help is not far. I feel grateful to have had the opportunity to attend post-secondary education because I have learned to actually see the intended message and question its validity. I have had the privilege of working with a diverse group of individuals who have helped me see further and further as I climb the mountain. The university journey would not be possible without the help of others. It is not an easy journey, but the goal is in sight. Once we reach the top of the mountain, the world will look vastly different than it does from the bottom.