



Kara Speedy
Views from the Amphitheater

Kara Speedy is an interdisciplinary painter based out of the Texas Panhandle that specializes in gouache and acrylic illustrations. She currently attends West Texas A&M University pursuing her Bachelor's of Fine Arts. In 2023 she earned a full time Muralists position at Blank Spaces where she works alongside other local artists painting the culture of Amarillo. As she expands her portfolio and furthers her education, her passion for her community grows. She aspires to give back to her community and to show the youth a fresh perspective of what's exciting in the local art scene.

“Views from the Amphitheater” was my first assignment in my very first painting class. This assignment focused on landscapes so I chose a classic setting that still stands close to my heart, Palo Duro Canyon. The painting depicts a prop that is used every year in the play *Texas*, an ominous tree that had been split down the middle by a lighting strike. I chose to highlight this tree in particular because it stood out so much from the natural canyon setting that surrounds it — a sort of paradoxical balance between the subject matter and it's background. The combination of these aspects creates a scene that pulls the viewer in to the often overlooked beauty of the Texas Panhandle.