

# *Construction vs Deconstruction*

by Krista Hamel

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Having lived in a small rural city since I was born, I have watched the landscape alter as the natural environments, home to wild forests and the various species that inhabit them, are bulldozed over to expand the city, making room for more apartments, houses, business units, and storage units. This piece speaks to the juxtaposition between what we as a human species consider to be construction and “progress” versus what construction means for the native species that work in a harmonious rhythm with each other. Where we put up metal barriers to prevent beavers from chewing down trees to “preserve the natural aesthetic of the river,” the beavers are creating dams that can help prevent erosion along the river, clean the water downstream of the dam, and create spaces for fish and insects to hide in. Painted with water-mixable oils, this piece was built up layer by layer, relying on an alla prima painting technique, which allowed for the bright vibrancy of the colors and textural elements to shine through. This technique of slowly building up layers also reflects further upon the question of construction and its relation to intention.