

***Angeline Rivas: I Had a Dark Night of the Soul and All I Got Was This Lousy T-Shirt* (Dec. 13th 2025- May 3 2026, Kansas Focus Gallery, First Floor)**

- Angeline Rivas (b. 1981) is a contemporary Mexican-American painter who creates vibrant, "psychedelic" abstract works that blend personal history with complex cultural and scientific themes.
- Born in Kansas City, Missouri, and currently based in Los Angeles, she is recognized for her unique use of airbrushing
- Her compositions start as soft graphite sketches sometimes filled in or made entirely with cosmetic makeup. She tapes off one florid section at a time giving her shapes their sharp edges and soft centers.
- Her exhibition is centered around the concept of "California Paradox", the state's unique historical capacity to birth both extreme utopian and extreme dystopian movements simultaneously.

1. *Suboptimalist Manifesto/ Birth of Venus* (2025)

Made with acrylic, gauche, and graphite on canvas. A defining work that critiques modern utopian promises and instead celebrates the "glitchy" and "suboptimal" nature of current reality.

2. *Terminal Lucidity LLC* (2025)

Made with acrylic, gauche, and graphite on canvas, Terminal Lucidity focuses on the interior physics of the human soul. It is a "mourning cry" for the loss of self, while simultaneously celebrating the beauty found in that brief, final moment of recognition.

3. *Projects SUNSHINE* (2025)

Made with acrylic, gauche, and graphite on a panel that delves into her "Pynchonian" interest in plausible cold-war era conspiracies and their cultural impact. Project Sunshine was a secret research program run by the CIA, designed to measure how radioactive fallout from nuclear weapons tests spread through the environment and affected humans.

4. *Zenosparadox .com* (2025)

Made with acrylic, gauche, and graphite on a panel exploring mathematical paradoxes and the digital "rabbit hole."

5. *Valles marineris* (2025)

Made with acrylic, gauche, and graphite on canvas. A massive landscape-inspired painting (60 x 84 inches) that merges Rivas's interests in planetary science (referencing a canyon system on Mars) with spiritual transcendentalism.

6. *Charm and strange* (2024)

acquired for the Nerman Museum's permanent collection. It explores scientific concepts (quarks) through a "hyperspectral" neon palette.

