I was tasked with creating a visual storyboard for the Dialogues on Economic Growth and Sustainability. As I painted these compositions I was listening for concepts and phrases that would be visually interesting in order to illustrate them for the storyboard. These pieces are a three part conversation between what I am hearing and understanding, what I am painting, and what the piece is saying to me.

“Applying Big Ideas: A Shared Foundation”
As I listened to the speakers during this meeting I was struck with the combination of crises Utahn were facing. I decided to capture a representation of each of those crises by including a brain, human lungs, seagulls, a juniper tree, houses and an exponential graph of growth. Each to represent a different obstacle as we strive for a sustainable and equitable future. Crisis of information, heavy metals in the dry desert air, a shrinking Great Salt Lake, water rights, housing crisis, and the reality that growth is unsustainable. I rendered these concepts using blue and white ink, as well as acrylic paint.
“Where Rubber Meets the Road: Case Studies and Perspectives”

Each of the three chairs depicted here represent a panelist and what they had to say about economic growth and sustainability. Top left chair is accompanied by an illustration of a Chilean Copper Mine and illustrates our current dependence on copper for green-energy technology. Top right chair depicts a panelist’s second hand boots, illustrating the point that no one needs to do everything to move toward a more sustainable future, but everyone should do something- in this case, give new life to an old pair of boots. At the bottom chair is an electric toothbrush which represents the fact
that increased energy efficiency doesn’t lead to decreased energy consumption.

“What's the Plan? Facing the Realities of the Future”

For this final piece I included disparate visuals to capture as much of the discussion as possible. I utilized a limited paint color palette to make decisions immediately. The first visual I added was a computer to represent the Y2K situation as a panelist talked about her experience fighting a battle of information and how that applied to the climate crisis. Darren Perry gave such a powerful argument for the end of capitalism and the importance of respecting Indigenous knowledge and land use practices. He made it clear that our priority should be community, not individualism. I depicted him with a magenta aura because I felt so much power from his words. The palm tree and orangutan represent comments made about deforestation to harvest palm oil which leads to habitat loss for this species of primate.