



“Mountain Stream”

14” x 10”

Gouache on Illustration Board

I was spring hiking in the Sierra Nevada Mountains near Heavenly ski resort. Up along the ridge, it was cold, and the snow was dry and powdery. But as I worked my way down the mountain, temperatures warmed, and the snow became wet and sticky. Drifting edges of snow mounds were melting and slipping into this mountain stream. The banks of the stream swelled and sluggishly pushed forward. The heavy water became bottle necked as it tried to jam through the narrow stream bed. It made me think of commuter traffic frantically escaping the city at rush hour. As I followed the stream further, I could hear a low rumble up ahead. Suddenly, the terrain tilted downward, and the stream widened. It burst alive like a free-falling rollercoaster: crashing into rocks, tumbling over ledges, forming waterfalls, and churning into foam.

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