



## Creative Intervention

### Weight of Expectations

CHRIS BENDEVIS

Carleton University, Canada

The Western medical model of disability typically views disability through the lens of an individual's medical condition; disability is seen as a deviation from what is considered the 'normal' and which then needs to be medicalized and repaired (F. Shanouda, personal communication, October 2, 2023). My painting illustrates medical staff surrounding a person struggling to drag themselves across the floor as they reach out for help. If you look closely at the scrubs, you can see the sparkles in the paint, which represent how medical professionals tend to view themselves as experts on disabilities (F. Shanouda, personal communication, October 2, 2023). The blackness and sludge engulfing the two disabled people is an attempt to make physical the impact of the prejudice and ignorance, and the feelings of constantly having to navigate environments where you are viewed as an obstacle, something to be fixed. On the right side of the piece there is a person with disabilities reaching out to help but they cannot pass the line. Their sludge is somewhat lesser, but they remain stuck. My image animates a social model of disability in which disability is situated and understood in relation to systemic barriers and social exclusion. This work was created in 2023 as part of my undergraduate course work in disability studies at Carleton University, Canada.

*Correspondence Address:* Chris Bendevis, School of Social Work, Faculty of Public Affairs, Carleton University, Ottawa, ON K1S 5B6; email: [chrisbendevis@gmail.com](mailto:chrisbendevis@gmail.com)

ISSN: 1911-4788



