

Eliana Lechter
Senior Show
Artist Statement

My work is inspired by my surroundings: the people and places I am familiar with, see every day, and love. My environment and my experiences are the basis of my art; I recreate scenes that are meaningful to me, presenting my interpretation of a memory to the viewer. Isla Vista, California, has served as my home for the past three years and I aim to reflect its qualities in my artwork to depict why it is so special to me. My work portrays the interplay between humans, their creations, and nature, showing how we have shaped our surroundings and continue to influence the natural landscape around us. I like to explore natural environments interrupted by a human presence, such as a figure in water or architecture within a larger landscape. Contrasting elements are used to accentuate the interaction, like straight lines versus dynamic shapes or textured versus flat forms. Some areas of the paintings are highly detailed, with every leaf on a palm frond individually painted, juxtaposed with the flat shape of a building or the solid, uninterrupted color of the sky. Recently I have taken an interest in architecture, painting the houses I have lived in in Isla Vista as well as different locations in Santa Barbara.

In my most recent paintings I have ventured into exploring color and light. In *6518*, the presence of the sun is indicated through its projection of light on the house. The subtleties in tone in the white paint from warm to cool distinguish the light from the shadow and allow the viewer to see the true effect of golden hour sun. The eaves underneath the roof emerge from the shadows as they are enveloped in the warm light of the sun. In *Purple House*, a similar effect is being shown as the sun's warm light reflects on one house, but not the other, as one has a bright pink light and the other is a cool purple color. Purple and yellow are used to complement one another, making the sunset shine brighter because it is framed by the purple houses.

The goal of my work is to present the world through my eyes to my viewer. I concentrate on themes that evoke feelings of happiness and peace for myself, hoping that the viewer will feel the same way. I want to give a glimpse of my environment to the world, either showing them something they are unfamiliar with or something that they can relate to. My paintings are straightforward, conveying my message through a simple composition and meaningful color combinations. I strive to transport the viewer to a different location through my paintings, offering serenity, stillness, and brightness.



Beach Entrance, oil on canvas, 30 x 40 in, 2021



SB Storefront, oil on canvas, 30 x 30 in, 2020



Purple Houses, oil on canvas, 30 x 30 in, 2020



6518, oil on canvas, 36 x 36 in, 2020



Pool House, oil on canvas, 30 x 30 in, 2018



Just Chilling, oil on canvas, 18 x 24 in, 2017