Artist Statement

Ahsia Barrientos

2024 UC Santa Barbara Alumni Awards Banquet

My current exploration is of nostalgia and the importance of acknowledging the Inner Child. Childhood is a polarizing time for many children and a handful of standards that dictate our lives are taught around this time. We begin to lose some of the love we had developed towards hobbies, popular media, and relationships; all for the sake of “normalcy”. My intention is to create an accessible space that reintroduces wonder into our lives and assists with the facilitation of bringing joy to the Inner Child.

Playroom represents a return to childhood as an adult, specifically through a space where play and wonder is encouraged. As I learn to recontextualize how I fit into this space now, I am reminded of the security I once felt as a child and aim to reincorporate this feeling into daily life.