

Artist Statement

Akela Craig '25 (L&S Art; Museum Studies minor)

2025 UCSB Alumni Awards Gala

I'm inspired by the dark, dramatic, and macabre elements found in Baroque art. The technique of chiaroscuro, the dynamic movement, and the religious and mythological scenes resonate with my own aesthetic and artistic interests. This piece is inspired by Paul Koudounaris' photography of "catacomb saints"—skeletons that were ordered by the Vatican in the 16th century to be exhumed from the catacombs of Rome, adorned in jewels, armor and costumes, and sent to Catholic churches and religious houses across German-speaking Europe.