

Artist Statement

Colby Condon '24 (CCS Art)

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When I first came to UCSB I wasn't sure where I wanted to take my art practice, I just knew that I loved to create. During my first year at CCS, I had strong visions of pieces I wanted to produce, but the execution was not there yet. Prior to my time in CCS, I did not have a routine process for the making of my pieces. I would simply begin painting and trust that it would work out in the end. I'd successfully made several pieces this way before, but I was frustrated to find that my luck was running out. Through trial and error, and several below-par paintings, I've learned how to plan and create thoughtful compositions. I accomplished this by taking my time with the sketching and underpainting processes.

I've always had an extremely active and visual imagination, which has been valuable to my art practice. Much of my recent work has been created without any tangible reference images. When I was first learning how to paint, I was forced to perfectly replicate photos. After countless classes taught through this method, I was left drained and unmotivated. Now, as an independent artist, I've entirely moved away from photo realism and created my own process. Sometimes I still utilize reference images, such as for my architectural paintings,

but I've learned to detach myself from the photo and create a new image on the canvas.

My current art practice has been focused on places that are important to me. My home city of San Francisco has offered an abundance of inspiration and references to the city can be seen throughout my work. I've also been inspired by my new home in Isla Vista. One of my most recent pieces, *My Breaking Point*, is an homage to my college apartment where I've made countless fond memories. Another one of my pieces, *N Judah*, blends together aspects of San Francisco and Isla Vista.

As I've curated my body of work, I've been focusing on ways to tie my pieces together. One way I've accomplished this is through the symbol of eyes. Throughout my life, I've seen this symbol in many places, such as the trunks of trees, in the shadows of mountains, or in the headlights of cars. I featured eyes within the mountains in my piece *N Judah*, as well as in *We Are All Recycled Stardust*, which is a print in direct conversation with the painting. My most recent project, *The City That Sees All*, has eyes featured throughout the landscape. I enjoy the idea of giving a bit of life and personality to nature and inanimate objects.

Another way I've made my collection cohesive is through my color palettes. I love bright and saturated colors, exaggerating the hues beyond what we see in real life. I often begin my paintings with a bright pink underpainting, which peeks

through in many of my pieces. I lean towards pink simply because it feels joyful and brings more life into my paintings. I'm still learning how to utilize color theory to my advantage, but I enjoy experimenting with different hues, values, and tones.

Some artists that I've recently been inspired by are Yayoi Kusama, Jennifer Clifford, Mila Kirillova, and Todd Berman. Kusama is a well-known contemporary artist who works with bright colors and bold patterns, which I find very inspirational to my own color palettes. This summer I saw some of her large sculpture pieces at the SFMOMA and it was surreal to see these massive installations in person. I met Clifford, a local San Francisco artist, over the summer while working at the Haight Street Fair. She creates brightly colored collages of San Francisco landscapes and I fell in love with her collection because she showed me some of the incredible possibilities of a medium that I'm not too familiar with, but hope to explore more in the future. Kirillova is another local San Francisco artist who has painted several "slice of life" paintings of the city. Berman, also a local artist, has been especially inspirational to my practice. He has a series of acrylic paintings titled *Surreal San Francisco*, many of which feature my neighborhood of Bernal Heights. He has mastered a unique style of cityscape that I can stare at for hours.

As I navigate my way through my art residency at UCSB CCS, I hope to create a large body of work that truly represents who I am, and the vivid ideas in my head. My home, San Francisco, has faced many struggles in recent years. The

city has become a target, receiving hate from people who only see San Francisco through negative media portrayal, with no knowledge of what the city means to the people. I hope to show the world my beautiful and unique home through my art, through my eyes.