

# Artist Statement

Kylee Cochran '25 (L&S Art, Painting emphasis and Communication)

2025 UCSB Alumni Awards Gala

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My work explores human connection, memory, and emotion through vibrant color, intricate detail, and dynamic composition. I focus on moments of intimacy, joy, and shared experiences, inviting viewers to immerse themselves in the raw emotion that defines these moments. By using personal and family photographs, I aim to reimagine not just the visual aspects of these memories, but the feelings that accompany them. My paintings are often dense and layered, with no singular focal point. The chaotic nature of the compositions mirrors the unpredictable energy of the moments captured, creating an immersive experience where viewers uncover hidden emotions and details as they engage with the work.

Initially, my art reflected my experiences at UC Santa Barbara, particularly the party culture of Isla Vista. My paintings from that time capture the vibrant energy of Del Playa, portraying both personal memories and a collective joy that connects the thousands of students who live there. As my college years come to an end, my work has evolved to focus on family and shared histories. These pieces continue my exploration of connection and emotion, now centering on the profound bonds within families and the moments that define them.

My art encourages viewers to reflect on their own memories, offering not just a snapshot of a moment, but an invitation to engage with the energy, complexity, and rawness of human experience. My work is both a time capsule of my own memories and an invitation for others to connect with their own stories, creating a shared sense of joy, recognition, and reflection.