

The *Fragile* series is aesthetically rooted in the familiar yet cold surfaces of Delft and other blue underglaze pottery. The floral ceramics were icons of femininity and homemaking in my childhood- usually manifesting as wedding gifts locked behind china cabinets or collectables stacked high on shelves. I was captured by the brilliant blue and shiny white pieces but I was intrigued that they were forbidden to touch even more.

I had forgotten about my mother's set of Blue Willow pattern plates until I started working at a small cafe during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. Pink paint covered the walls while blue and white flowers and idioms covered the plates, the art, the planters. I had been forced off unemployment, into a high paced, overworked, underpaid gig, unable to socially distance and surrounded by customers paying to work in close proximity without vaccines or masks. The kitsch grandma-chic decor felt cloying, patronizing, and over feminized. The objects began to gain weight- not only a figure of my past home but also a symbol of an unstable present.

Blue and white vessels and platters are created from repurposed soft plastics, oil paints, or inks and adorned with their typical imagery as well as found sayings from throw pillows, various idioms from early childhood, and snippets from personal therapy sessions. The meticulous cutting, repetitive pattern rendering, and initial research create a production routine that redirected and soothed the feelings of chaos, stress, and confusion through the pandemic, family trauma, and reckoning with a new relationship with femininity in a non-binary body.