

Artist Statement

While grounded in observation, my paintings are poetic and reimagined depictions of my surroundings' constructed and natural world, reflecting on home, presence, and the complex search for rootedness and belonging. They are internal landscapes and personal expressions containing feelings, memories, thoughts, and metaphors, where themes of loss, ungroundedness, estrangement, and yearning are channeled through. My art is informed by my lived experiences as an adoptee from a fragmented background and residing in a mobile contemporary world, feeling disconnected from the here and now, compounded by being a Filipina immigrant in the diaspora. I find expression for these feelings and experiences through my engagement with color, light, and the visual language of painting. Seeking inspiration from my surroundings and everyday life, I pay attention to nature, details within the ordinary, and ephemeral moments, allowing me to reconnect with the world, which, in turn, heals my relationship with the land. I find kinship with natural elements like plants and trees, giving me rootedness and a sense of wonder for this world.

-Cherisse Alcantara