

## Artist Statement

While grounded in observation, my paintings are poetic and reimagined depictions of my surroundings' constructed and natural world, reflecting upon home, place, presence, and the complex search for rootedness and belonging. My art is informed by my experiences as an 'adoptee' from a fragmented background and residing in a mobile contemporary world, feeling disconnected from the here and now and of migration. Experiences of loss, dislocation, and ungroundedness, often unacknowledged in the adoptee experience, are channeled through my art. I frequently depict homes and built spaces, including the ones I've lived in while looking at them from the outside with a yearning yet distant gaze. Lacking familial roots that I can hold onto, paying deep attention to the details within the ordinary and every day, and finding kinship with natural elements like plants and trees allows me to locate myself, reconnect, and find rootedness and a semblance of identity that heals my relationship with the self and the world. These works are internal landscapes and personal expressions conveyed through color and the visual language and the rich history of painting.

-Cherisse Alcantara