

## Artist Statement

I depict my surroundings, including the constructed and natural world, as paths for deeper inquiries about transience, dwelling, the search for rootedness, and the complex relationship between identity and place. While grounded in observation, my paintings are mental landscapes containing the complexities and tension in the search for belonging. As an adoptee and a 'late discovery adoptee' coming from a fragmented background, compounded by being a Filipina immigrant in the diaspora, my experiences are of loss, ungroundedness, and estrangement. Additionally, living in our contemporary society, I feel disconnected from the here and now. I started recording the spaces I navigate and inhabit to remember them and reconnect with the world, which, in turn, heals my relationship with the land. I pay attention to the mundane and ephemeral moments, including light and reflections, while searching for compositional arrangements and engaging with the poetry of space, light, shape, and the expressive possibilities of color. I find kinship with natural elements like plants and trees, giving me rootedness and a sense of wonder for this world. I paint my subjects with care and attention to their particularities as they take on magical qualities.

-Cherisse Alcantara