

## Artist Statement

My paintings are poetic and reimagined depictions of my surroundings' constructed and natural worlds, reflecting upon home, place, presence, and the complex search for rootedness and belonging. While drawing inspiration from my observations and travels, these works are not just records of places and objects; they are meditations on dwelling, transience, and the unknown. Paying attention to nature, the land, the quiet, everyday moments of life, allows me to locate myself, reconnect with the present, and find rootedness and beauty, while anchoring memory, grounding identity across distance, and restoring my relationship to the self and the world. My experiences as an adoptee and being in the diaspora, particularly the search for roots and grounding, shape my understanding of home and embodied memory. The act of painting becomes a way to inhabit these questions—to feel one's way into them—and to offer something back to the world.

I am fascinated by details, textures, and the palpability of light. My slow, meticulous painting process transforms into an act of pause and intense observation, bringing attention to simple forms and their essence. Each piece is layered with memories, stories, and associations, adding dimension to my work. These works are personal expressions conveyed through color, rich materiality, visual language, and the history of painting.

-Cherisse Alcantara