

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. There is loss and trauma, often unacknowledged, in the 'adoptee experience,' and my experiences are of dislocation and ungroundedness. Paying deep attention to the details within the ordinary and every day allows me to locate myself and reconnect. Lacking familial roots that I can hold onto while seeking a semblance of identity, I find rootedness that heals my relationship with the land by finding kinship with natural things like plants and trees. I often depict homes and built spaces, including the ones I've lived in, looking at them from the outside with a yearning yet distant gaze. These works are internal landscapes and personal expressions conveyed through color, the visual language of, and the rich history of painting.

-Cherisse Alcantara