

Arielle Romano

## Artist Statement

Glow in the dark stars, video games, crayon drawings and balloons provide a glimpse into a more youthful time where opportunities flourished, and where the world was filled with possibility. As the distance from past to present becomes further, memory becomes foggy and misremembered. However, distance is what ultimately makes the heart grow fonder. I paint old memorabilia tucked away in boxes or rooms to suggest how nostalgia tends to hide away in the corners of our closets and can be buried under ancient memories. As time passes, histories are often compartmentalized and forgotten. My paintings romanticize the rediscovery of histories and artifacts from the past.

Juxtaposing my childhood nostalgia with the rich history of painting allows me to create spaces where I bend historical boundaries through absurdity and glorification. Painting has an incredible power to elevate the ordinary. Just as feelings of nostalgia cause us to look lovingly towards the past, seeing the past through rose colored glasses, the intimate act of painting amplifies sentimental value.

Recontextualizing great works of art is not only a way for me to pay homage to them, but it's also a way of noting how those themes resonate over time. Refabricated Classical Greco-Roman statuary and ancient remnants of monuments appear warped or broken, their eroded conditions suggest to the passage of time. I approach these objects with a childlike wonder, because even in their aged and broken state, they still hold a great divinity. I carefully curate them together to represent the foundations for my performance of self and illustrate my personal orbit through time.