



KRISTIN FIORVANTI

FINE ARTIST & TEACHER

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ARTIST STATEMENT

I am a multimedia artist exploring memory, identity, and the complexities of the human experience through oil painting, printmaking, video art, and performance. My work often reflects on themes of childhood, girlhood, and the overlooked moments of everyday life. Drawing from family photo albums and my own experiences, I uncover the emotional resonance found in familiar spaces and objects, revealing the deep connections between identity and the mundane. I am greatly inspired by the writer Susan Sontag and her critical works on photography, as well as American impressionist painter, Mary Cassatt.

My artistic journey began with traditional painting techniques, which I honed during my studies in Florence, Italy, at a private academy called Accademia Riace. This experience expanded my creative practice and inspired me to work across traditional mediums, leaning heavily on master studies and lessons in art history. During the pandemic, I was able to expand my knowledge in the arts by studying painting and printmaking online at Virginia Commonwealth University. Wanting to stay in Europe after the world opened back up, I completed my Bachelor's degree in Communications with a minor in Art & Design at John Cabot University in Rome, and found a job working on the production team for a film company making DEI documentaries. This further shaped my understanding of how art can bridge cultures and challenge perceptions. Showing this body of work depicting Western family culture to an audience of 70+ nationalities was a highlight in my artistic career; finding common ground amongst people from around the globe, engaging in critical discussion, is what inspires me the most.

Today, I live in northern Virginia, where I work as a middle school art teacher. In my teaching practice, I aim to inspire students to find their voices through art and play. My current work continues to expand on traditional painting techniques, while fostering a deeper connection to the world around me. Through both my art and teaching, I strive to create spaces for critical reflection, connection, and growth.

POSTCARDS FROM DAD

During childhood, writing and drawing developed into my love language. Getting postcards from my parents while they were away maintained our connection at a distance. I set out to recreate this series of postcards from my father on a more permanent surface to solidify their sentiment and share our story with others. Using a wood engraving machine and a risoprinter, I modified and recreated the originals by enhancing their colors. Some of the works are additionally engraved with the birds-eye view of the air bases my father was stationed at in Qatar and along the Gulf.

I was inspired by a class I took at John Cabot University called War and Terrorism in the Media. In this class, we established that war is often looked at from a birds-eye view, distancing the viewer from its real-life effects and consequences. In my case, and in many American military families, one such consequence is the absence of loved ones for extended periods of time, or, the ultimate sacrifice, their inability to return at all.



WATCH

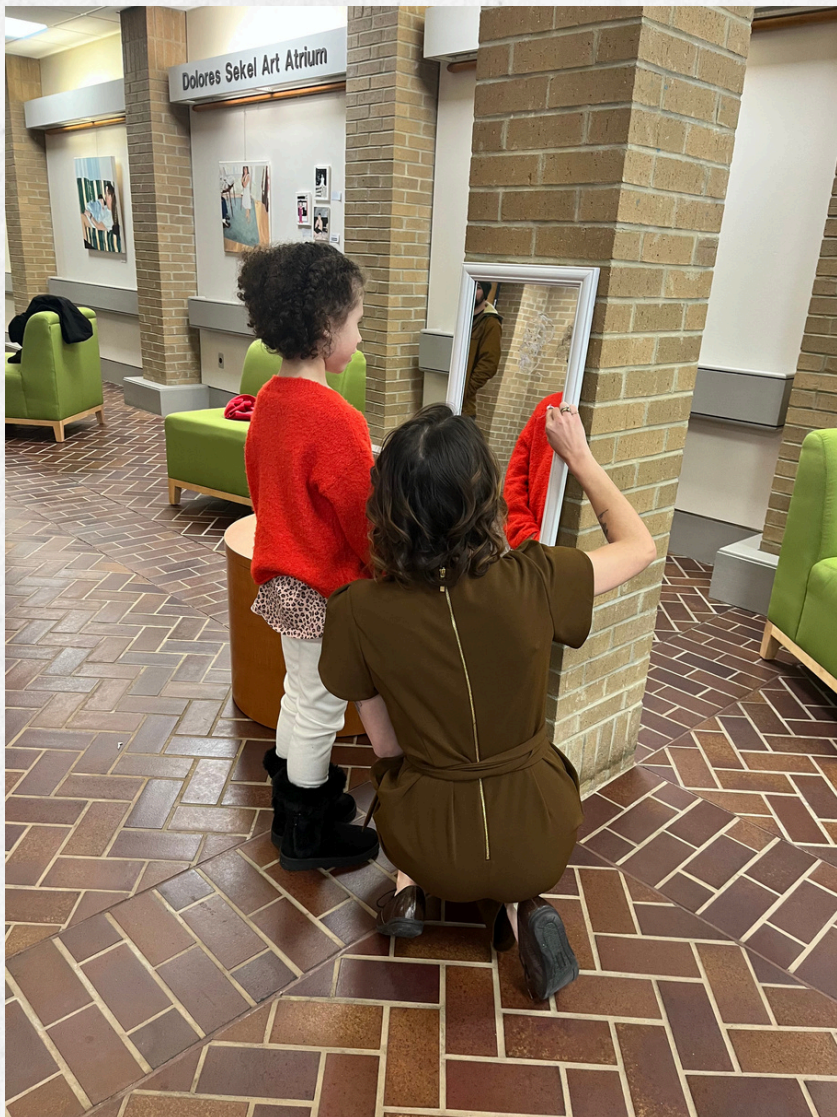
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REFLECTIONS

In this performance, I welcomed my visitors to pose in the mirror while I drew their reflections with oil pastels. The only rule I gave them was that they had to tell me a story while I traced their outline. An array of stories were told - near-death experiences, child birth, experiences with loved ones lost to dementia, the relationships we have with creativity, and how we met our best friends. This created a spirit of connection and intimacy, inviting my viewers to engage with their own life stories and find the courage to share.

The end result is a mirror which only allows you to see your reflection in and around the outlines of others --a philosophy I believe we can and should embrace more often.



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A NOTE ON ADDICTION

During my first year here at Laurel Ridge, in 2016, my older brother, Dustin, tragically passed away from a drug overdose. Later, in 2023, I aimed to memorialize him with a documentary. "MOGLEY: Our Jungle Book Story" is a poetic reflection on the drug epidemic in rural areas of northern Virginia, emphasizing the impact of childhood trauma and poverty on the young adults that struggle with drug dependency. I am greatly inspired by artist and activist, Nan Goldin, who, after battling opioid addiction, used her creative platform to protest big pharma philanthropy in the biggest museums around the globe.

You are not a number or a statistic, and you are not alone. If you or someone you know is struggling with addiction, please find help at the National Drug Helpline.

WATCH



READ



National Drug Helpline: **+1 (844) 289-0879**



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KRISTIN FIORVANTI

LIFE STORY

WINTER LAUNCH

DECEMBER 7, 2024



ITINERARY:

173 Skirmisher Ln, Middletown, VA

OPENING.....December 7, 2024 @5-7PM

Q&A and guided tour

The reveal of at least 2 never before seen paintings

Performance art installation

ARTIST TALK.....January 2025

"The Politics of Art Making" live talk in the art studio

RUNNING UNTIL.....February 2025