

Artist Statement

Mackenna Morse

www.artbymackenna.com

mackennaartwork@gmail.com

I create paintings to explore my inner world. I examine themes which are at the forefront of my mind, like loss, grief, and gratitude. For me, this naturally leads to investigating and unraveling interpersonal relationships between family members.

I typically work with oil paints, which force me to take my time while I meditate on my internal unfolding. I also appreciate the way oil paints remember each brushstroke, letting the viewer in on the process. Choosing vibrant colors and bold shapes conveys the urgency I feel regarding these themes. I am inspired by the whimsical styles of artists like Miró and Kandinsky, as well as atomic age design. I am also moved by the patchwork quality of heirloom quilts. All of these styles of art convey a primitive or childlike style, while carefully and mindfully crafted.

Painting time is when I dive into my psyche to understand my truest self. My painting, Age 15, is a vulnerable reflection of the shame and guilt I felt as a teenager, while Front Yard is an attempt to hold on to the solace I feel at home now, as a woman and mother. I've learned through my process that I enjoy drawing attention to complex emotions while applying playfulness.