

## Amy Hernandez Hay Artist Statement

"Planted" is from a series titled "Trees in Captivity." In this series I drew my inspiration from the many trees I see while doing daily life in suburbia. These trees are planted in small spaces surrounded by cement, fences, walls and power lines. They reach for the sun and grow over ropes, sidewalks and wire. They provide homes for creatures and shade, oxygen and beauty for us. They are living in a way that is unnatural for them. A tree normally grows in a group or forest. They rely on their fellow trees for protection and support. They communicate with each other through their roots and fungi. Trees in captivity are cut off from their kind, living away from their ancestors and land.

Through this series I explore the similarities of trees in captivity and people. How we live our lives in ways that are far from our natural history. We plant ourselves in small spaces often cut off from nature and our indigenous roots.