

## Elaine Nguyen Artist Statement

I am interested in painting the moments in my life that are filled to the brim with feeling. My works are autobiographical, exploring personal history through text-based work. Nostalgia and memory play a key role in the creation as well as my mental health. Influenced by different markers of my identity such as being a woman of color, a first-generation immigrant, an activist, and an artist with bipolar disorder, my artwork is meant to provoke conversation and provide an intimate lens into how I, and others, navigate the world.

Text in my art originated from mania, disjointed and fragmented words strung together and scribbled in chaos as my hand tried to make sense of my mind. Time allowed me to reflect through the making of such works and the text in my pieces has grown from disguised to open. Using poetic language as an element of storytelling, the text becomes raw thoughts and precious memories turned visual.

The mediums range from acrylic to oil to a blend of fabrics. I embrace femininity and softness through floating draped fabrics and embroidery coupled with traditional forms of stretched canvases. Ultimately, my works serve as an invitation to be vulnerable.

### Bio

Elaine T. Nguyen lives and works in California. She has received a BFA from The Maryland Institute College of Art. Her work has been shown in Baltimore, New Jersey, San Francisco, Paris, and Florence. She is a curator, activist, and community builder, working to connect Asian creatives in California. One of her curatorial projects, *Conversations in Identity*, was the first art show held at The Salesforce Tower in San Francisco as a way to bridge the gap between tech and art. She is a first-generation Vietnamese immigrant interested in expanding contemporary understanding of cultural identity, mental health, and memory in art.