

## Elijah Wooldridge Artist Statement

Saying Hello to Goodbye. (2020)

Focusing on the external and internal dialogues used when a loved one is on their way out. A conversational smoke screen is put into place to safeguard oneself from the here and now. At this point, communication becomes blurred and ambiguous.

What is unable to be articulated, becomes a series of double speak and disjointed conversations used to fill the space between hello and goodbye.

The nature of my artwork stems from running a punk rock venue with my family during the entirety of my teenage years (1995-2002). At an impressionable age, I found myself in some very real, violent, and unlikely situations. This acceleration into adulthood provided me with the opportunity to learn from all walks of life and how wild, beautiful, and pure an unstructured human experience can be. The majority of my artwork holds clues into my upbringing. Each piece I make secretly hides a guest list of individuals and moments from this subculture that are, indirectly, responsible for the creation of the work. My art practice often explores themes of fragility, longing, growth, vibrance, danger, youth, loss, joy, isolation, and self-reflection.