

# Elise Cervantes Martinez Artist Statement

I am Elise Cervantes Martinez and I was born and raised in Southern California. I began to seek an interest in art at an early age, through the means of crafting such as sewing and crocheting. With my development in crafting, I became influenced by bold colorful patterns found in fabrics along with early stages of fashion design. In my pieces, *Wallpaper* and *Crashing and Burning* I work in oil paint to combine found images and vintage aesthetics to create nearly impossible situations.

While growing up, I constantly looked to family photographs for inspiration, particularly those from the 1950's through the 1970's. Upon looking at these photos and using many of them as reference, I feel a greater sense of nostalgia. Part of my interests in creating art is to allow my viewers to feel a sense of excitement through the retro aesthetics I use. In my painting, *Wallpaper*, I took reference from a floral pattern reminiscent of fabric I bought second-hand. To contrast with a bold 1960's print I took conceptual inspiration from Charlotte Perkins Gilman's short story from 1892, *The Yellow Wallpaper*. On the other hand, the painting, *Crashing and Burning* is inspired by images found in 1960's magazine advertisements, along with images of arson.