

Jacquelin Nagel Artist Statement

Jacquelin Nagel received her BA from Loyola Marymount University and is a current MFA candidate at Laguna College of Art and Design. She has been drawing and painting since childhood. She takes advantage of the relationship between drawing, painting, and photography to explore a surreal world of photo-based figurative works. She often uses a collage like approach to help piece together her own world. She utilizes a glazing technique used by the Old Masters to give her paintings a high level of luminosity and saturation. Her work uses the figure to convey metaphors that help her to be at peace with who she is and what she has experienced.

My work consists of large figurative oil paintings that weave in natural and botanical elements. Fascinated by nature, I strive to bring a new appreciation to it by taking forms out of their everyday environment and placing them together unexpectedly. Working as a florist has directly affected my work and has further piqued my interest in the connections between humans and nature. I use figuration to explore this parallel as well as the relationships between the physical world and the emotional world; the real world and the surreal world; my conscious and subconscious; my inner self and my outer self. I trust my intuition and am often working to piece together images that reoccur in my mind. I believe these images are how my subconscious deals with my life and my experiences. I have started to think about my subconscious as liquid, leaking out little bits of visual information when it gets too full. It can often feel like an overwhelming compulsion to chase these images and create what I see. I struggle to understand many aspects of my own work until I have completed a painting. Only then am I able to take distance from it mentally. Because I repeatedly go through this process, I consider my work to be a subconscious visual diary for my life. I am on a continuous exciting journey of figuring out what these subconscious images mean to me. Working life size or larger further solidifies my connection to the paintings and this other world I have created for myself.