5-2023

Personal Details

Ben Nathan
Utah State University

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Recommended Citation
Nathan, Ben, "Personal Details" (2023). All Graduate Plan B and other Reports. 1715.
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Personal Details

“I turn to consider the boy I once was in order, finally, to describe the man I am now. I remember what was so grievously lost to define what was necessarily gained.”

-Richard Rodriguez

My work melds renderings of everyday spaces and objects from memories of childhood and my present experience as a parent in order to highlight the significance of lived experiences, and to assert their worth for gaining an understanding of self. I approach my daily shortcomings and victories as a parent and compare them to my childhood through the symbolism of personal objects. I make these comparisons of past and present in response to seeing my children’s interactions with their own quotidian spaces. The use of the mundane as a catalyst for reflection, however, can be applied much more expansively. I share ordinary yet significant personal details with viewers to contextualize the importance of ordinary spaces in forming a personal identity.

The imagery I use is heavily object based. Objects become a stand in for specific people and my interpersonal dynamic with them. These objects work together in each composition to create narratives of reflection on the past and present. Alongside the more quotidian symbols, I capture glimpses of the vast plains of the American West—which to me have always evoked a sense of childhood wonder, stillness, and reflection. The empty furniture and bare landscapes in these works acknowledge the loss that is inherent to living, and serve as an invitation to allow that loss to inspire intentional living in the present. My work borrows mentalities of layered and planar space from printmaking, and combines them with materials and linear mark-making from drawing. I employ a mixed-media approach to create subtly detailed textures and layers as a callback to layers of experience, and to produce images that are rich with personal detail.

In 2022 I lost my Paternal Grandmother. I found that in addition to the loss of a dear matriarch I mourned everyday things lost to the past. From furniture to childhood relationships, I was made keenly aware of their absence. As I longed to spend more time in the past, I created a studio practice of printing and drawing, whereby I enable myself to spend hours a day in quiet introspection, just drawing and reflecting on my life as expressed by personal details. I assert that there is valor in living a life full of personal significance, and that there is value to be discovered in ones’ own personal details. I invite consideration of the everyday things that add up to an individual life, while also serving as a personal introduction by which I describe myself far more aptly than I could ever do with words alone.