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Artist Statement // Whenever, Wherever (2023)

These paintings begin as charcoal rubbings, which I then embellish with delicate washes of watercolor. Sometimes, the sources of their relief are clear in my mind, as if I were an archaeologist studying a long lost language that had been etched into weathered monuments. Other times, the process is automatic and interpretive as I react spontaneously to the remnants of these reliefs, creating unexpected patterns that I peer into like an augur, reading the signs and marveling at the new dimensions unfolding before me. But languages are more than their alphabet, structure, signs and symbols. They were made to transmit meaning between peoples that begin in visceral interpretations of our environments.

Contemplating the origins of language, I ponder its evolution from experience, culminating in a delicate balance between aesthetics and utility, and wonder about the intuitions we may have lost for deriving meaning from diverse sensory experiences. The meticulous application of pastel demands keen observation of the interplay between charcoal and watermarks, with the strokes felt through fingertips, creating a tactile connection integral to sensing their flow. As I immerse myself in the space, a dialogue unfolds, revealing its demeanor and inclinations, transcending mere decoration or imitation to embody invention, discovery, and revelation.

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Artist Statement // Rising Tide (2023)

We are, today, perpetually online where most of our interactions occur virtually rather than in face-to-face encounters. It would be tempting to think of these digital realms as boundless, free from the constraints of time and space, making way for a greater sense of interconnectedness. But there is a flip side to this unlimited accessibility for the virtual space is relentless, always on, and can be overwhelming. The expanding virtual community, while providing connection, is becoming more structured, imposing limits and drowning us in negativity and noise. It preys on our insecurities, as the mind seeks validation in the virtual realm, gradually distancing itself from the tangible world.

With oil, wax, chalk and skin, this series reignites our sense of touch and physicality, a reminder that bodily sensation is integral to one's understanding of human consciousness that has always evolved alongside our mental and physical environments. Arms, hands, knees and skin blend together in a motif of sensation and abject detachment from a greater whole, while a longer read reveals additional bodily elements – the brain, a vagina, a sphenoid bone – wells of physiological mysteries and ancient myths woven into the narratives of our existence as individuals and communities. For even as the balance shifts, like a rising tide, steadily towards the virtual realm, we will never be fully free of flesh and bone, even in memory.