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*“Nostalgia: A wistful desire to return in thought or in fact to a former time in one’s life, a sentimental yearning to one’s home or homeland, or to one’s family and friends; a sentimental yearning for a happiness of a former place or time.”¹ *a fond memory*

I am intrigued by nostalgia, what creates a nostalgic memory, and how to represent those memories with paint. I turned to my personal family for research, collected photographs, documented memories, and also documented what I’ll consider nostalgic in my own life. I discovered the fondest of memories, despite differences of individuals and time, involve people gather around food. My research is realized through a triptych utilizing the generations of my family, including my own. Each painting contains exaggerated and expressive portraits of each generation placed in corresponding interiors: a soda shop, a diner, and a cupcake and coffee shop. As the series evolved, the work became less about capturing the abstract essence of nostalgia, and more about the significance of creating and recalling sentimental memories with others over food. Eclectic saturated color, warped perspective, bold patterns, and the floating display support the hallucinatory, dream-like whimsy of recalling a memory. The series, although very personal, speaks to the universal and relatable significance of memories created through communal gatherings around food.

¹ Dictionary.com