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## BFA Show

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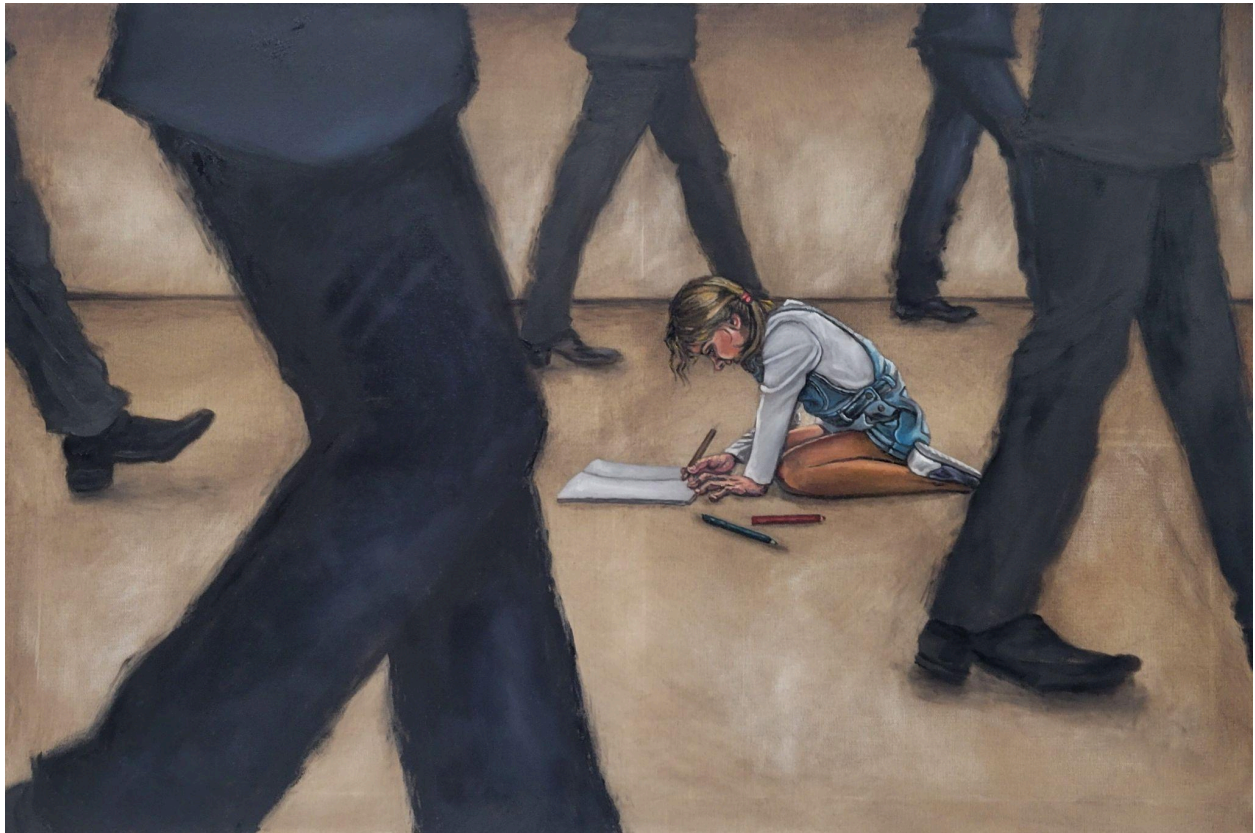
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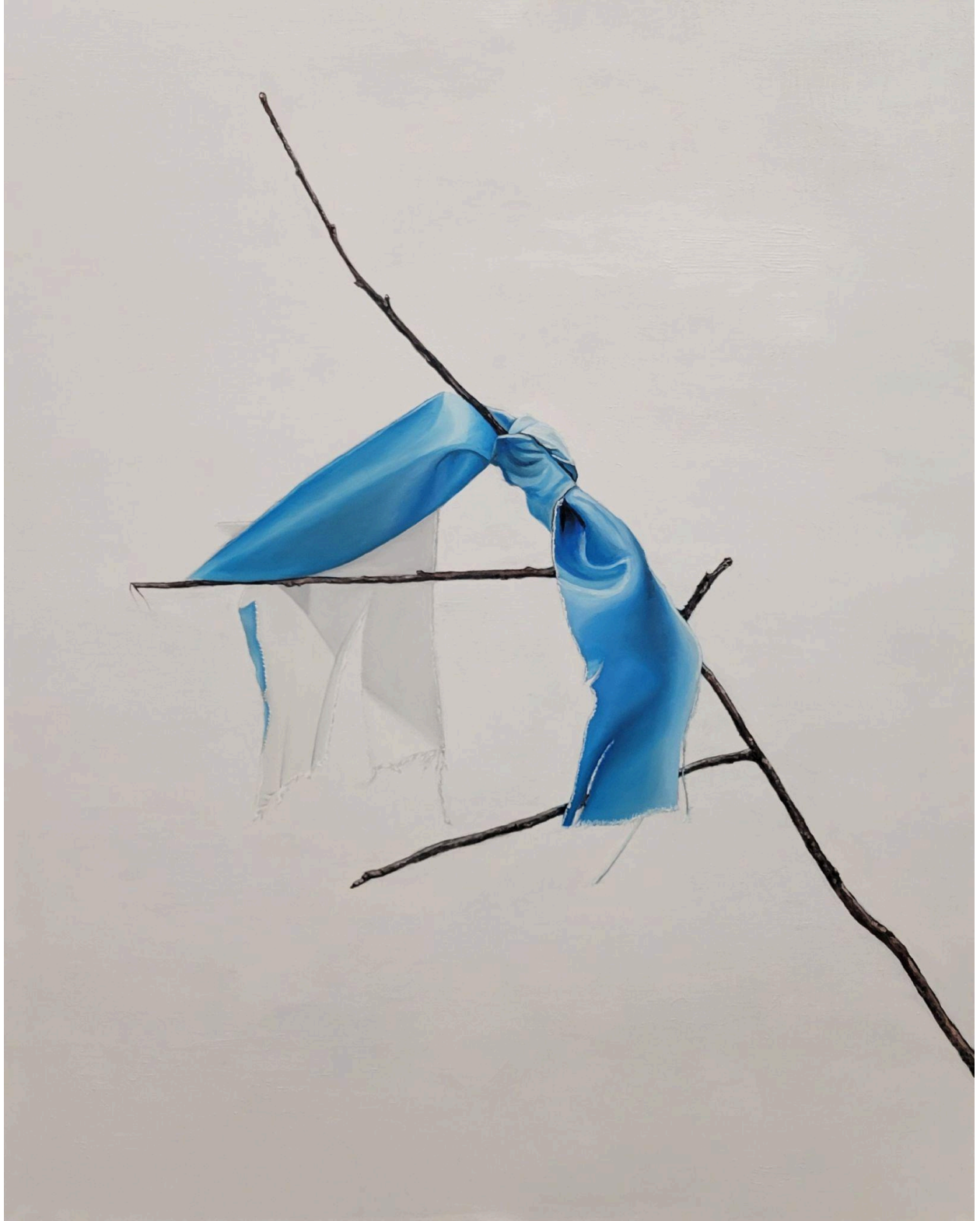
For my senior BFA show I chose the title “All That I Hold Dear” because I believe it encapsulated the essence of my chosen works. I wanted to curate pieces that both highlight what I cherish in my life and convey where I find my personal meaning. With this goal in mind I chose works that included themes such as family, nature, home, and quiet moments of beauty or enjoyment. Despite these relatively positive topics though, it was my intention that overall the show would have a feeling of bittersweetness and nostalgia. I think I accomplished this desired outcome through both my color palette and my subject matter. In terms of my color palette I intentionally chose pieces that included deep, rich tones of yellow ochre and blues, both because it contributed to an overall sense of cohesion and because I felt that they came together to create a sense of moodiness. I think this outcome was demonstrated most effectively in my work “The In Between” (see below). In addition to its use of color, “The In Between” also touches on the reason why I think the works are so powerful and carry so much emotion. To me it is because underneath these beautiful moments I’ve portrayed there is the understanding that they will not last forever. The world is made up of all that we enjoy, but also all that we struggle through, which I think makes these pockets of peace and love in our lives even more important. This concept of moments not lasting is displayed inherently in my desire to capture the fleeting moments, but also more directly in a few of the artworks. For example, in the work “Teddy” I explore the idea of my childhood and the end of an era with the nuclear family I have known for 20+ years ending. It is both a celebration of all that has been and a piece of mourning. The same can be said for “Postcards to Myself”, which is about my time spent in Germany with my family, and in my mother’s childhood home. This as well is an experience that I will likely never be able to have again in the exact same way, but again that reality only makes me cherish it even more.

I found during the show’s reception that having these meanings and stories behind my work was essential, as it drew my audience in just as much as the work itself. I was surprised how many people were eager to hold a discussion about each piece, even people that I had no relationship with whatsoever. This experience absolutely highlighted the importance of an artist statement, and of taking the extra step to forge connections with your audience and put both yourself and your work out there. In addition to this lesson on the presentation of my work, I also gained many technical skills in regards to the hanging and preparation of my art. I feel confident now in regards to preparing my pieces for future exhibitions, in a way that I did not feel prior to the show. I also am glad that, as a painter, I included a more non-traditional installation piece in the work “Teddy”, because I was very pleased with the result and now am not afraid to try something similar again. In addition, I would say that the final valuable lesson that I learned through this experience was that if you do not invite people to your events, they will not magically know to come. The marketing of the show, from creating postcards, to reaching out in person, to creating an email list, was absolutely essential

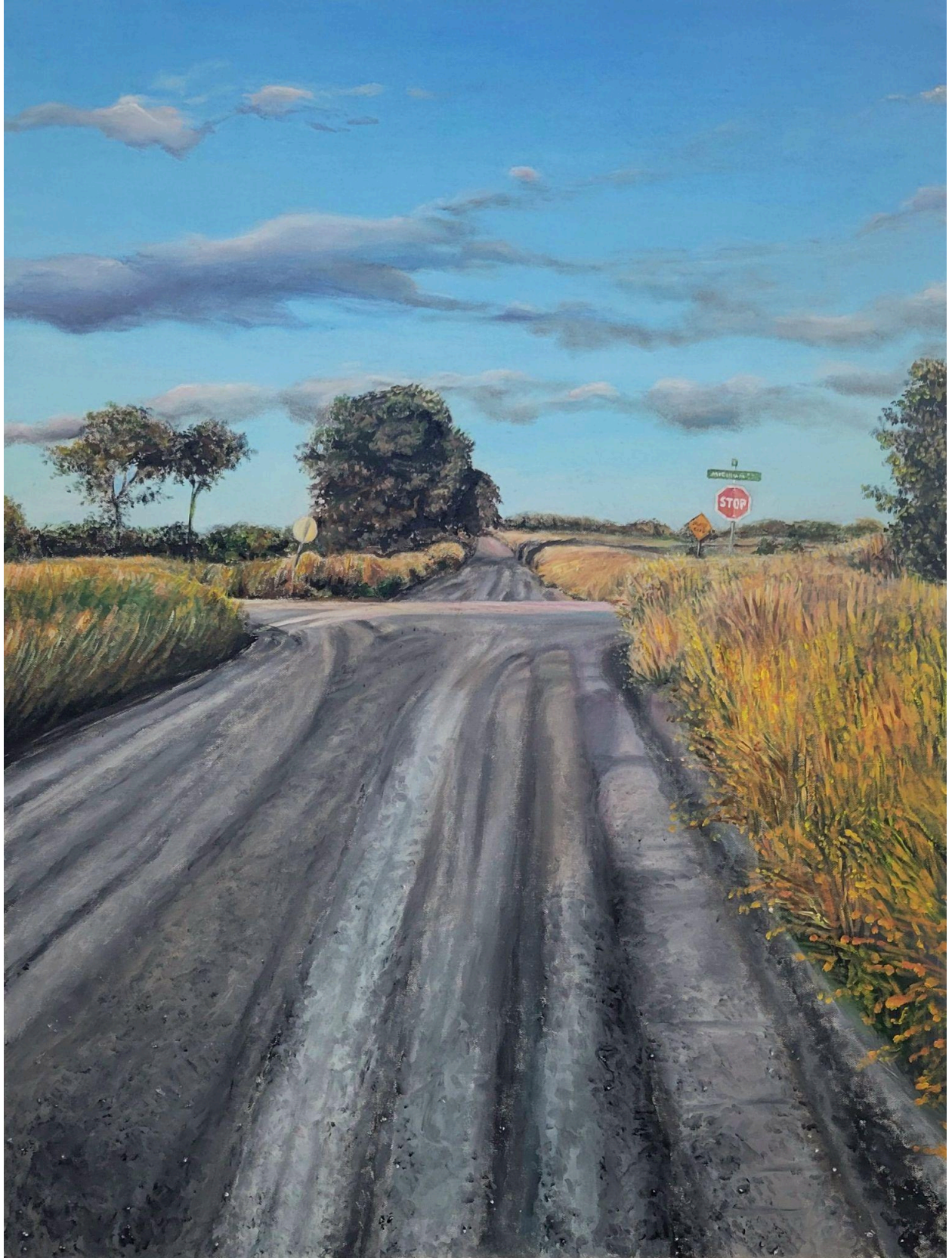
and I'm so glad that I put as much effort into it as I did otherwise I do not think the outcome would have been half as successful. Though I have to say, I was still pleasantly surprised by the amount of people who left notes in my guestbook that I had never met before or actively invited. The biggest takeaway of all was how wonderful it was to read through all those comments and realize how much my work had touched those who truly needed it in that moment. That is an inspiration that I will take with me now as I move forward into graduate school and beyond, and I am so grateful for the opportunity to have had this show and for all the valuable lessons and growth that it has provided me with.



“And I Stay”



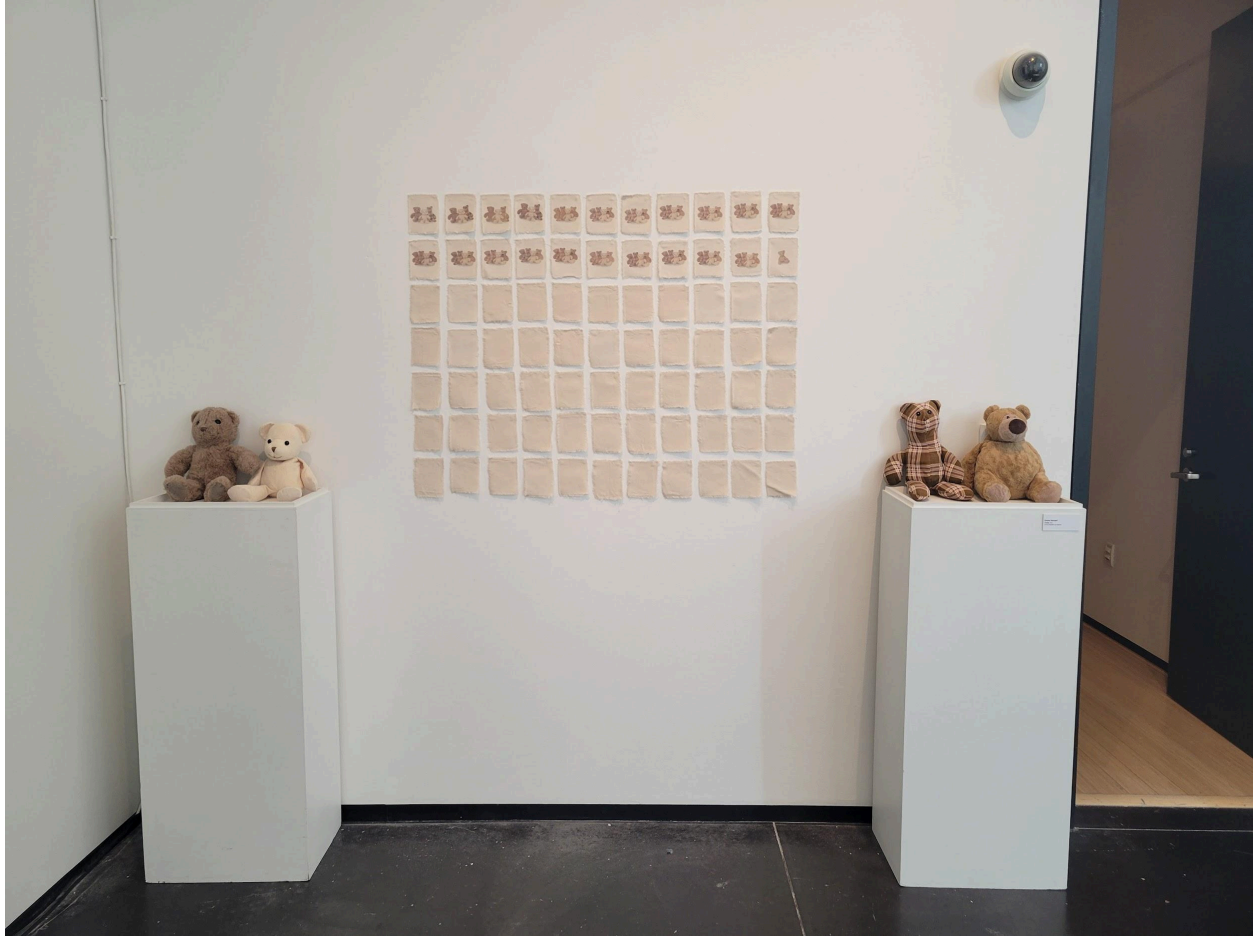
“Bluebird”



“Crossroads”



"Postcards to Myself"



“Teddy”

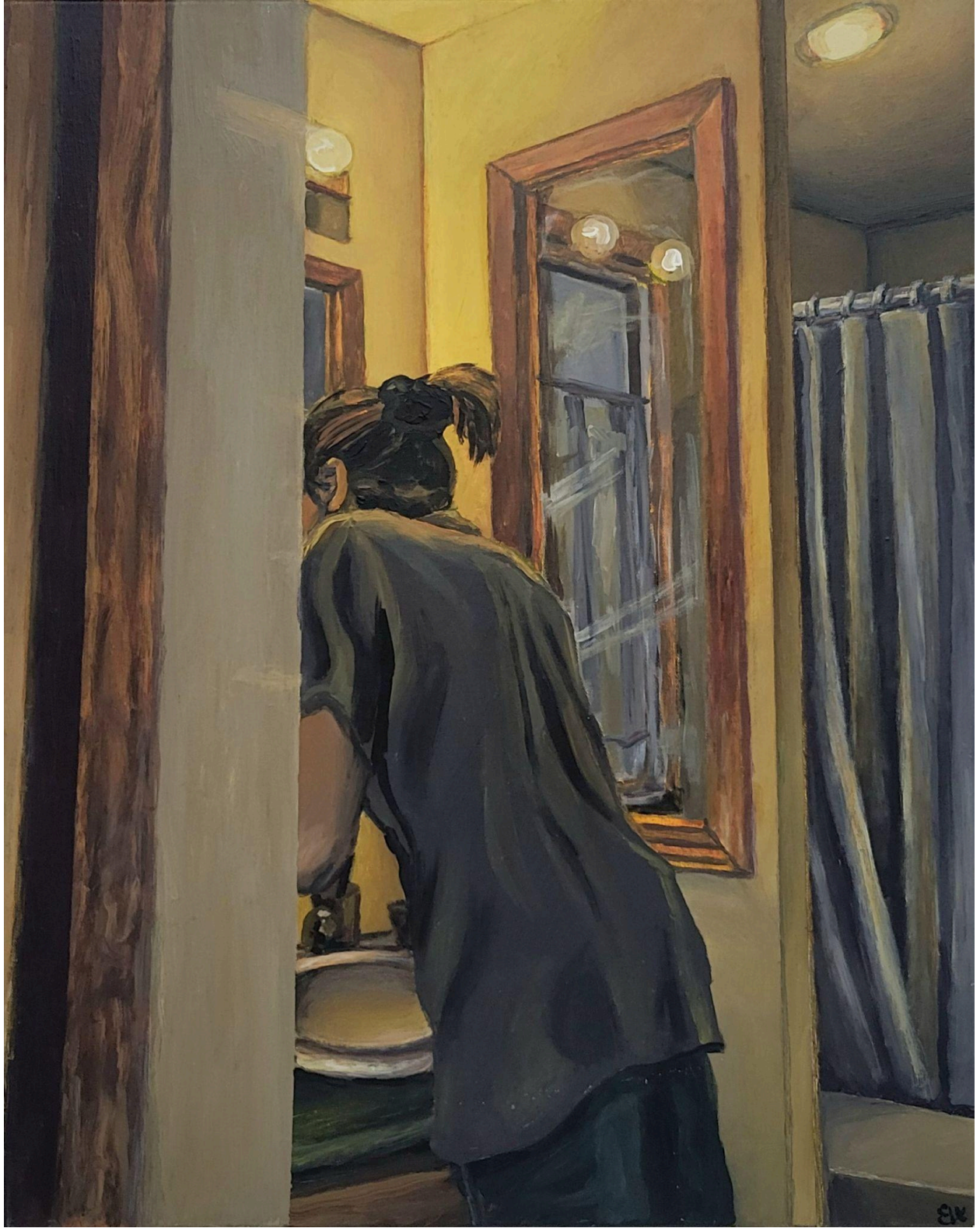


"The In Between"





"Trio"



"Watching Mom"