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4th Year Arts Awards Outcome

The Melancholy of Memory

In the Spring of 2023, I proposed a collection of prints for my Distinguished Majors Program (DMP), consisting of editioned and framed pieces. Originally envisioned as three distinct chapters, my collection evolved into a narrative of the transition from childhood to adulthood, enriched by reflections on home, cherished memories, and the profound influences of my Kurdish heritage. Growing up in the warm embrace of a close-knit family, our home was a sanctuary of shared experiences and enduring bonds. Within my home, I am constantly reminded of all the memories from my mother, father, sister, and brother. Each room within my house captures snapshots of these little memories, as I consistently ponder upon our bittersweet times. Moreover, I am consistently reminded of the influence my Kurdish culture has had on my upbringing. Every corner holds echoes of love and laughter, memories woven into the very fabric of our lives. Immersed in the rich tapestry of Kurdish culture, my upbringing was filled with the rhythms of tradition.

The first print is an image of my mother opening the door to the foyer of the house I have primarily lived in throughout my life in Northern Virginia. The image consists of a copper etching, a dry-point engraving, a monotype of a Middle Eastern rug, and a viscosity printed kitchen. The image resembles the complexity and intricacies of memories as you further enter my home.

The second print is an aquatint and monotype print of my mother's vintage tea set and her hands. Each delicate cup bears witness to a lifetime of shared moments and gatherings, evoking a sense of warmth and hospitality that has defined our family home. The tea set has existed since before I was born, as I often loved every chance to play with it when I was younger.

The third print is a viscosity print portraying my mother hugging one of my siblings, representing the abundant affection seen within my household. My mother's unwavering dedication to our well-being, often at the expense of her own, continues to resonate with us, providing me with enduring motivation and support in life's endeavors.

The fourth print is a linoleum relief print with gouache depicting my mother delicately flipping a pot of freshly prepared dolma onto a tray for our family. Her delight in witnessing others enjoy the food she meticulously crafts with love and dedication shines through in this piece.

The fifth print depicts a lithograph capturing the pool that was central to my upbringing, resonating with the joyous echoes of laughter as my siblings and I engaged in games of volleyball, Marco Polo, and splash contests.

The sixth and final print consists of an embossment of the house I was born in and lived in for the first six years of my life in Farmington Hills, Michigan and an etching of the house I have lived in for 15 years in Sterling, Virginia. The two houses are connected by paper through chine collé, bridging the gap between past and present, memory and reality. Both of these houses consist of very important and fond memories; however, my memories from Michigan are more faded and solely entail reminiscences of birthdays or small milestones.

Images of these prints will soon be updated as they are still in the process of being framed and curated for a reception show on April 26th.