

Y Lam '24

Majors: Studio Art & Psychology

*Mê: Room of Fixations and Reinstatement* discloses my personal narrative of growing up in a blended Vietnamese-American household. The word *Mê* in Vietnamese describes those who become enchanted or fixated by specific interests or passions, often rooted in childhood experiences. Fond of felt and clay crafts, I spent the majority of my childhood absorbed with blanket-stitched cat plushies and miniature polymer clay renditions of food that I made myself.

Interested in creating my own version of a child's room through a psychologically responsive lens, I combine these crafts with art forms I currently engage in—such as collage and watercolor painting—to represent objects that were part of my childhood room setup: family portraits and Western toys.

The process of reflection provides an opportunity to recognize the circumstances of my upbringing and to address deficits of cultural connections within my dual Vietnamese-American identity. As a result of growing up in an immigrant family, resourcefulness is embedded into my approach to art-making. These themes manifest as other toys that a younger me potentially would have appreciated and which accompany the craft practices from my past.

By revisiting, referencing and re-imagining my childhood, I am also highlighting how these past fixations and feelings manifest in the choices I make today in terms of interdisciplinary studies: Art, Psychology, and Education. In this way, I honor the beginnings of my interest in art, my past state of consciousness, and the experiences that coded my foundation.