

BETHANY ARTS

JULIA BENNETT

A Dream I Struggle to Recall



Artist Statement

Julia Bennett constructs spaces – familiar and ambiguous. These spaces offer familiarity through color and figure, yet remain obscured by fractal space. Left without context, a sense of nostalgia is found, only to be blurred by an enigmatic narrative. Layered with repetitive, instinctual brush strokes, lived experiences accumulate onto the canvas, revealing the convergence and collapse of time. While recording both distant and vivid memories, she responds through texture and motion, as they cycle through ever-evolving realizations. These fragments of loose memory present a narrative, and additionally, a visual-language, which is communicated through obscured representation. While abstract form produces a poignant response, figurative elements simultaneously offer access into the subliminal intention of the work. Moreover, unlike written language, reading a visual narrative is complex and intimate, ultimately dependent upon the viewer's personal history. We are all limited by our experiences in this way. However, although the images begin as profound to the artist's recollections, they have the capability of being ubiquitous, in the way that we are able to associate our own experiences to unrelated happenings.

This work investigates the response of a community, individually and collectively. Object and viewer coalesce to form a oneness of experience. Though the object remains constant, the viewer continues to change — presenting an evolving narrative, parallel to the transformation of memories throughout a lifetime. Thus begins the investigation of how a work of art creates an unintentional response, and furthermore, an observation of how the viewer's reaction reflects their own psychology.

Julia Bennett graduated with a BFA in Photography from SPU in 2017 and now lives, paints and dances here in Seattle.

Visio Divina

1. Look at the work and let your eyes stay with the very first thing that you see.
2. Keep your attention on that one part of the image that first catches your eye.
3. Try to keep your eyes from wandering to other parts of the picture. Breathe deeply and let yourself gaze at that part of the image for a minute or so.
4. Now, let your eyes gaze at the whole image. Take your time and look at every part of the photograph. See it all. Reflect on the image for a minute or so.
5. Consider the following questions: What emotions does this work evoke in you? What does the work stir up in you, bring forth in you? Does this work lead you into an attitude of prayer? If so, let these prayers take form in you. Write them down if you desire. Now, offer your prayers to God.

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Creating dualities between the figurative and the abstract, presents unsettling questions of the conscious and subconscious states of the human psyche. Julia Bennett is predominantly concerned with this subject, and additionally how this affects society's response to a visual stimulus. Still, the artist's final motive is to saturate, to provoke a cognitive response – activating the brain in order to recognize it's own presence, allowing the subconscious to become known. This work investigates the response of a community, individually and collectively. Object and viewer coalesce to form a oneness of experience. Though the object remains constant, the viewer continues to change — presenting an evolving narrative, parallel to the transformation of memories throughout a lifetime. Thus begins the investigation of how a work of art creates an unintentional response, and furthermore, an observation of how the viewer's reaction reflects their own psychology.

