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All at Once

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All at Once
Artist Statement
by
Maddie Assarsson

How does one archive a space which no longer exists the way it used to? I began this series of paintings with the idea that I would be able to put onto canvas my memories of a particular place- home- and see them laid out before me, neatly and carefully organized so that I could see everything that happened there, all at once.

Memories do not come as they really happened- they come convoluted, neglected, intensified, added-upon, reduced to, emphasized, ignored, or forgotten. They come in seasons, in night and day, fuzzy around the edges, and very unsure of themselves. There is a disconnect between that which actually took place and the mental image and associations I have with this memory. In an attempt to recreate the people and places of most importance to me, this disconnect became crucial. This series of paintings represents a reality which has been stretched and compressed by time, but made none the less truthful by this process. There exists a gray area between fact and fiction, and memory makes obsolete this distinction by creating fiction out of fact, and vice versa. *All at Once* is a series whose imagery is taken from a reservoir of recollections, patched up and pieced together and placed side by side to recreate a vision of home which does not exist in pictures or writing. It is important to me that these pieces are recognizable to those I grew up with, but also give some sort of narrative to someone who is seeing them for the first time, however broken or vague it may be. In an effort to record the joyful, meaningful, sad, or ambivalent moments of childhood, I have learned that the act of remembering is a tool for creating imagery in the same way

that collage is. Most pieces in this show are snapshots of many different recollections placed together in ways which did not actually happen, but may as well have.





