



FARIDA HUGHES | Artist Statement

I create artwork about connections, working from human stories of identity, relationships, and place, and responding to these through fluidity, transparency, and color harmonies. My aesthetic is abstract and painterly, obtained by mixing oil paint with resin, or working in layers on paper with mixed media including fabric dyes, watercolor, charcoal, and water. Commingling the translucent layers of my media is how I make manifest the overlap and interconnectedness of our human understandings of one another, the histories that influence us, and our common movements within the spaces of the world. Using vibrant color, bold shapes, light reflection, and glass-like surface textures, I invite contemplation on the mixing of known and perceived realities. My works can be portraits without visages, they translate human stories without using the figure, and they explore painting spaces as horizon-less landscapes of affinity and connection.

My new paintings are a symbolic and layered mapping of remembered movements and conversations at social gatherings. The pieces are either inspired by specific events cemented in the brain, or manifest as poetic renderings where the faceted shapes of remembered thoughts and conversations become an underlying support structure for spheres of communal interactions. Using vibrant color combinations that mingle and slide over each other on the painting support, I emulate the manner in which conversations turn and flow, and intimate or lively exchanges become memories that travel into new spaces in our minds.