

Susan Mentrak

My work is influenced by the idea of legacy; the ways in which our family history, oral histories, and DNA shape our personalities and life trajectories. I can not help but to filter my ancestor's experiences through my paradigm with empathy and romanticism. Thus, I use color and form to highlight what I imagine is the contrast between living an everyday routine in the midst of experiencing traumatic and/or serious circumstances. My work emphasizes the innocence, playfulness, humor, and zeal for life that can still be present despite these challenges. Life still goes on and we become resilient. That fortitude is incorporated into our narrative, thus influencing others.

I am fascinated with history and how it impacts us today. Clay gives me a voice to tell these stories as well as exploring how it affects me. I want to inspire viewers to reflect on their own legacies, and consider the profound impact that their actions have on future generations.