

Mylan Nguyen

Artist Statement:

Through my art practice and research I am exploring the concepts and practices of magic, healing, and interconnectedness. My background and interest in illustration has shaped my cute and playful aesthetic approach to making. Through illustration and ceramic sculptures I represent animals, figures, and entities that occupy my cosmos and world building art practice. I pursue my inclination toward narratives that highlight supernatural occurrences like transformation, divination, and otherworldly processions. I draw on the topics of Curanderismo, and Nahualismo, as subjects in my current art practice.

I have been creating creatures that can sometimes be mistaken for others in their form. This might be a reflection of the ambiguity I have often faced in my own mutiracial identity constructs. I use watercolors, ink, and colored pencils to make soft colors and translucent layers that build up and drip over one another to express a daydream encounter with an animal other. I make vessel creatures that can be filled

with breath to let out small songs and wheezing whistle voices. I bring life and laughter out of the materials I manipulate.

I made a procession of ceramic snails. They are vessels for holding healing plants as they travel across a road of salt. Logically, snails and salt don't mix. The process of osmosis would take place; the salt would draw water from their bodies through their thin permeable skin. But these snails I made are resilient. They made it through all of the transformations that they had to. From being minerals in the earth crushed, combined with others, and rehydrated; in my hands they formed new bonds. They made it through the fire at cone 10 taking on 2280-2300 degrees of heat F only to come out stronger. I know they will continue on their way, slowly but surely, finding their way to the home they were meant to be in. They will be powerful talismans or friends for someone who needs them.