

Artist Statement

My artwork explores the complex interplay between the body, the natural world, and the mythological. I seek to capture narratives that illuminate both the beauty and tension of psychological and corporeal experiences, focusing on the often-overlooked aspects of societal roles and personal transformation. Through the representation of human and celestial bodies immersed in plant life I explore the passage of time as simultaneously prolonged, fleeting, and cyclical. These forms connect the human experience with the natural world, highlighting the interwoven cycles of life, death, and growth that shape both the body and the environment.

A central theme in my work was inspired by the transformative journey of early motherhood: a period of radical change, where time loses context and routines are drastically restructured. Body, identity, and creative practices are all thrust into new patterns, rituals, and regimens centered around caring for another. The act of mothering, like nature itself, is paradoxical: revered and mystified, yet often mundane and unacknowledged.

Nature serves as both a refuge and a metaphor in my work. Bodies immersed in and emerging from local midwestern flora reflect a sense of longing. Limbs reaching for connection and nourishment parallel the quest of branches and root systems for light and water. Fungi is depicted as a representation of the decomposing and regenerative qualities that follow the literal and metaphorical death- the beginning after the end.

Bio

Natalie Baldeón is a Visual Artist and Educator living in Saint Louis, MO. She received her BFA from The University of Central Florida, and her MFA from Washington University in Saint Louis. She has exhibited her work locally, regionally, and nationally. She currently works as an Adjunct Professor at Webster University and St Louis Community College, and teaches a variety of workshops in the St Louis area.