Mi Casa Su Casa

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Sculpture + Expanded Media

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Mi Casa Su Casa is an immersive tangible memory, an installation that actively investigates how storytelling reshapes the way familial and cultural histories are remembered. Storytelling, inherently subjective, is an important tool for contextualizing history. Rooted in memory, stories shift over time; details falling in and out of focus or forever lost. This subjectivity creates a liminal space where reality and perception blur, providing entryways toward new understandings.

The installation reads as a vaguely familiar domestic setting, the overall whiteness taking away distraction and promoting reflection within the viewer. In inviting the viewer into a memory of my home, I use ceramic and casting processes to retell the story of my Nana.
As the viewer enters the work they encounter an accumulation of delicate casts; both in plaster and ceramic. The shawls are the clay's memory of the real object, which was burned to ash in the firing process. This process heightens the fragility of the material, becoming a metaphor for the ephemerality of memory. This is further engaged in the lithography prints repeated along the wall. As each print is pulled, the original image is slightly altered, again alluding to the nature of memory. When grouped, the objects and prints become physical memories through this act of storytelling, preserving what came before. Through material transformations the objects give new meaning of what remains.

The investigations within *Mi Casa Su Casa* purge the initial perceived cultural and historical narrative I’ve attached to my memories. In this installation I become the storyteller, drawing from the history of myself to retell the story of my Nana. It is in my own navigation of this liminal space that I begin to unpack the sociological concerns deeply impacting generations. The installation reflects a familiar domestic space where the specificity of my family’s experience opens the door for other people to think about how spaces are containers for memory. Ultimately, the work provides an opportunity to ask the viewer “what do we draw from the histories of ourselves?”
*The Sharp Dresser*, 2021

Dimensions variable
Ceramic, plaster casts, found object
The Sharp Dresser, 2021

Detail
Sometime Past Midnight, 2021

Dimensions variable
Found object, ceramic, plaster
Sometime Past Midnight, 2021

Detail
Sometime Past Midnight, 2021

Detail
Shawl 2, 2021
Dimensions variable
Ceramic
Shawl 3, 2021

Detail
Shawl 1, 2021

Detail
Family Photo Wall, 2021

Dimensions variable

lithography prints
Mi casa su casa

Unshakable hospitality.

An open home is a vulnerable home.

An old heart is a frail one.

There's only so much one can bear witness to.
Pre-k 3/8, 2021

10" x 10"
lithography print
Lone Schoolgirl 1/3, 2021

“11 x 8.5”
Stone lithography print
Lesa, 2021

10" x10"
Aluminum lithography plate