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MELANIE PARKE

STATEMENT

Pastoral and bucolic still life settings emerge from my own life. I reconstruct familiar interiors and filter them through the ideology of memory. My subjects often center on flowers, birds, decorative objects, gardens and domestic settings with an intent in creating safe places for pleasure. I utilize sentiment to craft a domestic locus and seek visual lushness by alternating tonal moods and vivid ornamentation.

Painting is a pleasure-seeking process for me and abstraction a vehicle with which to think and begin. I set up the space intuitively, in broad and textured gestures, then piece together arrangements to compose a homespun narrative. Specific interiors and landscapes are implied. Shifting the emphasis to pattern, texture and tone, I work to destabilize notions of exacting representation. This is an effort to build on a sensation of memory which conjures both comfort and longing.