Aydin Hamami

Artist Statement

As an artist, I address the role of the ephemeral in artmaking at a time of disinterest in the handmade. As society increasingly relies on what is produced by machine learning and AI automation, the need for the integrity of the personal and the intimate in artistic spaces grows. My work aims to address this need, suggesting human dialogues that transcend consumerist mentalities and help rekindle an interest in our physical relationship with the world while navigating our nature as beings of ephemera.

I am drawn to things that mimic our own temporality: a cracked bowl, a worn coat, a well-loved home. My process is a meditation on memory, time, and the tangible. When I cast long, running stitches through the discarded material that forms the substrate of my paintings, I am reminded of my grandmother's hands placing the same kinds of stitches, the smell of strong tea and cologne, and language I can almost understand. Memories can define our realities, but are also a reflection of our own impermanence.

The works in this series are an exploration of material, touch, intimacy, and memory through the lens of mixed media abstract painting and assemblage. As the world of media tends more toward the slick, the fabricated, and the artificial, we often find ourselves coveting the real, the tactile, and the man-made.

These paintings are a reaction to the over-articulation that has become so prevalent in our daily lives, focusing on the intimacy of hand-mended patchwork, chance marks made through physical action, and the intervention of time and neglect on objects that once served one purpose and now find themselves recontextualized as things both new and storied.