



A Sense of Expectations

By Hannah Names

oil on canvas, 4'x5,' 2024.

As an artist who works with both visual and written language, my primary goal is to tell stories that reflect and react to the complexities of the world around us. This piece is part of a larger body of work that is about the story of adolescence pressures and the external and internal influences that shape our understanding of the world. To examine these concepts, I stitch together seemingly disparate subjects and themes, drawing from a metaphorical “scrap bag” of imagery and materials to create something more than the sum of its parts. For this painting, I digitally collaged three of my own photos and then painted them onto the canvas. I enjoy incorporating collage into my work because it allows for some abstraction within figurative painting. A collage can create a space where seemingly unrelated images live together in unusual ways. When these images are rendered in a painting it forces them to exist on an even playing field – no longer pieces cut and pasted together, but a complete scene.