

# jen larose

## artist statement

Do you ever hear song lyrics and remember an old friend? See a painting or photograph that reminded you of a childhood memory or a memory you would want to forget? Without memories, we would not be the people we are today. We retain information that makes us into the friend, lover, and actual person that we are. I produce work about myself and my personal experiences and memories. Past experiences in life and memories are multitudes of layers and layers compacted into more layers. Each of these layers represents different meanings in my life. The experiences I have, the memories I carry, and the way I produce work as an artist is because of those layers that make me who I am. The goal of my work is to leave the viewer feeling the same, or similar, as the way that I felt during these experiences and how I felt while recalling these memories. Along with old photographs and related text, I hope for my viewers to leave associating past memories of their own and feeling similar to the same ways I felt.

Old photographs from old boxes form the layers of these mixed media collages. My audience and I share a similar photographic past. The rough edges of the pieces remind me of my hazy memories and dreams and along with my life, none of these have perfect straight lines. The paint that stained my hands during this process is similar to how the subjects and emotions stained my memory. I define these memories in categories of myself, my family, my mom, the subject of life and death, and heartbreak. Each of these has titles of dependability, dignity, loyalty, accountability, impermeability, humility, intensity, and vulnerability. Each of these words is my interpretations of these subjects.

Someone once said, “you can’t make it, if you can’t relate to it.” These are my memories. This is my life. It’s weakness, it’s excitement, it’s anger, it’s humility, it’s incomplete, it’s completely done. It’s mourning death, it’s celebrating life. It’s unfinished.

Disclaimer: All quotations are by known artists. Outkast, Garth Brooks, Les Hall, Amos Lee, Bone Thugs and Harmony, Circa Survive, Incubus, Josh Ewing/The Investments, Alanis Morissette, Tristan Prettyman, Phar Fletcher.