

# CAITLYN DORAN

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2022 ART & ART HISTORY  
MFA THESIS EXHIBITION



**DEPS ARTIST PROFILE SERIES**

MAY 6-20, 2022

# 2022 ART & ART HISTORY MFA THESIS EXHIBITION

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The *2022 Art and Art History MFA Thesis Exhibition* features the thesis works of the MFA candidates in Columbia College Chicago's Art and Art History Department. The exhibition, which includes artists' books, prints, drawings, sculptures, photography, sound, projections, and installation works, represents the culmination of two years of development on a cohesive body of work for each artist.

Participating artists:

Kelsey Bogdan

John Bolin

Caitlyn Doran

Samantha Trace Foster

Anna Lipscomb

Alexander Jose Luis Ramirez

Chris Tasiar

Megan VanKanegan

The *2022 Art and Art History MFA Thesis Exhibition* is presented in conjunction with the Department of Exhibitions, Performance and Student Spaces (DEPS), the Department of Art and Art History, and Paul Catanese, Director of Graduate Studies for Art and Art History.

# CAITLYN DORAN

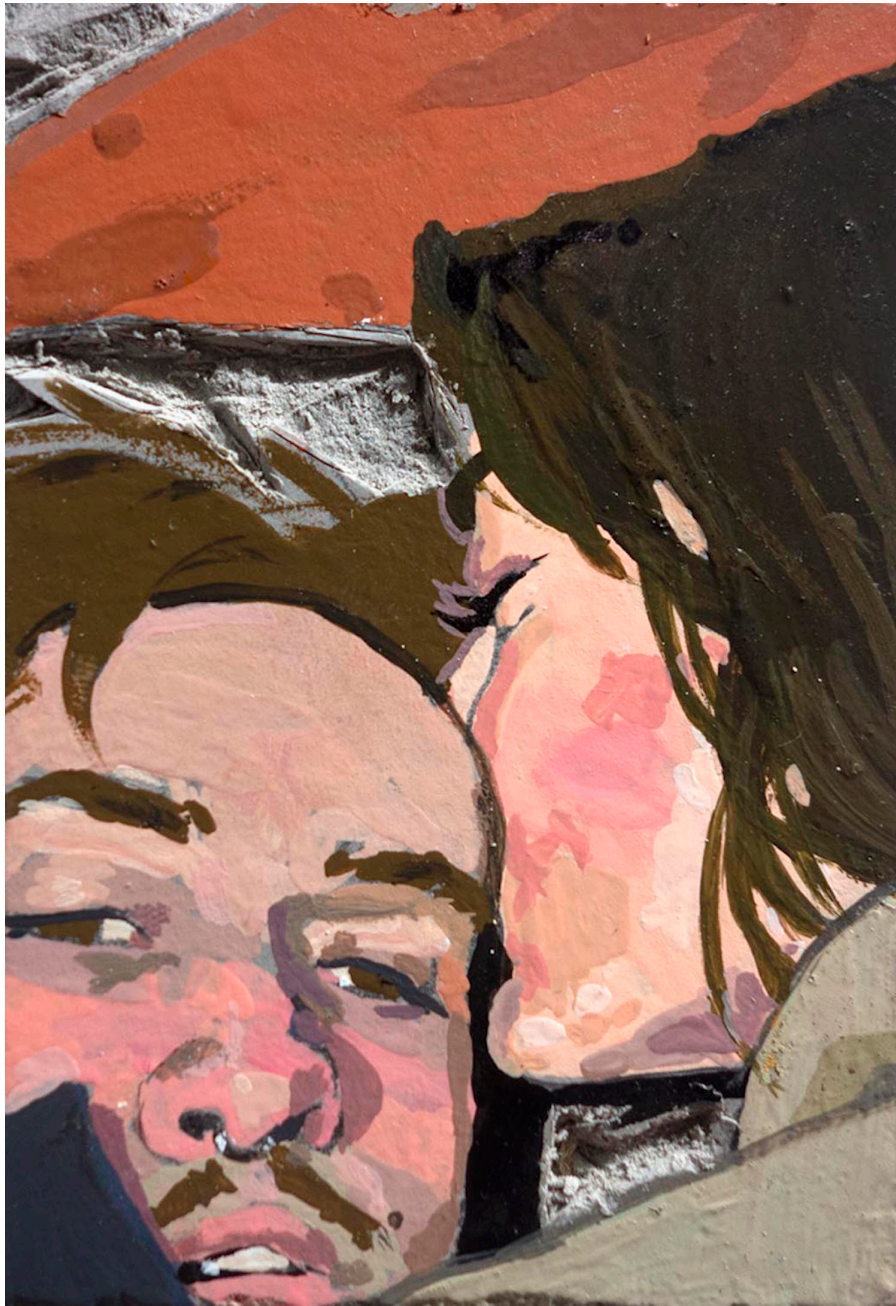
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Soetsu Yanagi has said that “someone living in proximity to a flowering garden grows insensitive to its fragrance.” In ode to this philosophy, my thesis project, entitled *A Croissant-Sized Deer Talks with You: The Look, Feel, and Value of the Quotidian within Magical Realities* is a series of paintings on linoleum and wood that explores a hyper-personal quotidian, specifically encounters, both real and imagined, between humans, their animals, their objects, and each other. The scenes unfolding are intended to electrify modern conceptions of the banal through a patchwork of characters split between time and space. I would love most for this project to encourage both presence within our everyday relationships and activities, but also serve as the conduit for greater creative exercise or a means for every viewer to form their own unique narratives based on the visuals provided.

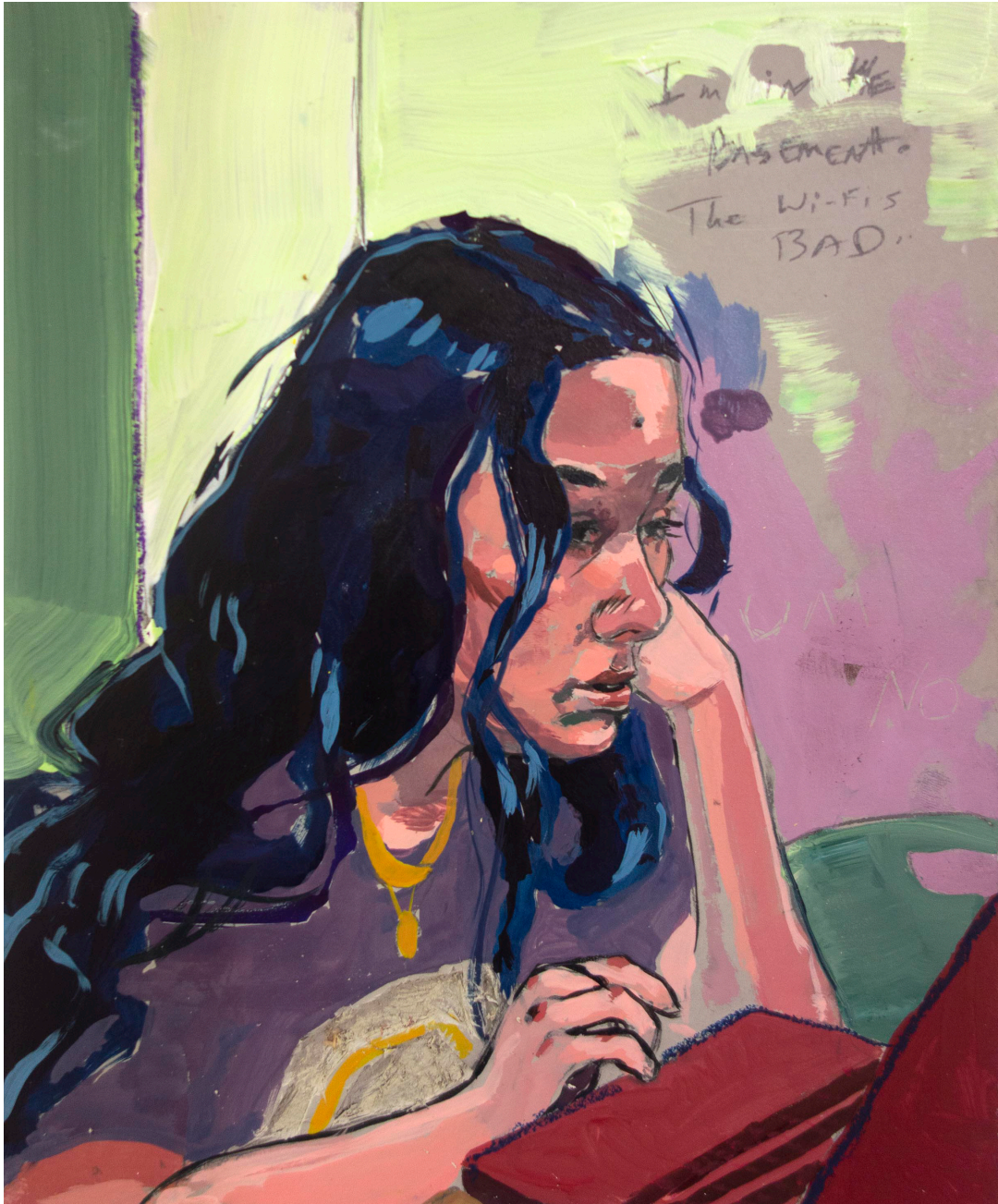
**Caitlyn Doran** is a painter based in Chicago. She received her BFA in Drawing from the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design in 2016. Doran lived in Japan and attended the Kanazawa College of Art’s oil painting program in 2018/19. She is the recipient of the Albert P. Weisman award in 2021 and 2022 and the Luminarts Fellowship. She has participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions throughout the Midwest and abroad.



*Caitlyn & the Cold Cold Atelier*, 2021, acrylic and oil pastel on wood panel, 24" x 24"  
photo courtesy of the artist



*To Make it Feel Better*, acrylic on linoleum board 2022, 3" x 2"  
photo courtesy of the artist



*Anna Needs Wi-Fi*, 2021, acrylic and graphite on linoleum board, 10" x 8"  
photo courtesy of the artist



*Youko & the Yellow Room*, 2021, acrylic and oil pastel on wood panel,  
24" x 24" photo courtesy of the artist



*Caitlyn & the Cold Cold Atelier*, 2021, acrylic and oil pastel on wood panel, 24" x 24" photo courtesy of the artist



# INTERVIEW WITH CAITLYN DORAN

Conducted by Kaylee Fowler

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**Kaylee Fowler:** You moved to Japan to work as a teacher, and also attended school there in 2019; what inspired you to make this move, and how has the experience affected your art practice or the way you approach working?

**Caitlyn Doran:** Fresh out of undergrad, I was hungry for hefty change. Moving to the other side of the world and, at least initially, doing something unrelated to art seemed to fit the bill. It also only felt possible at that time, like an opportunity that would pass me by if I didn't seize it as an unencumbered twenty something.

**KF:** Living there has effected every corner of my life. I found a second home, most notably ulterior types of "everyday." I now like to let content unique to my experiences in Japan seep into my paintings and see how it plays with characters, scenes and objects from my American life. I'm also a bit more meticulous as is the way of all of the artists in Japanese art schools I met.

**CD:** Conceptually, the grueling hours and sheer intensity of the Japanese work week taught me to recontextualize and celebrate my unproductive time scattered throughout the day. My painting scenes follow suit by exclusively showing moments of casual respite.

**KF:** You make a lot of references to your day-to-day life in your work; do the experiences you are referencing affect the material choice or scale of a piece, and do the visual elements you use vary based on these experiences?

**CD:** In a lot of ways I'm trying to elevate the everyday and elicit specific emotional climates, so long as it's a surface and medium I feel can do this on, I'll use them.

**KF:** What started your interest in working with the ordinary aspects of life? What is the value to you in highlighting these parts of life, and what do you hope viewers will take away from it?

**CD:** Like many, mimetically reproducing images of myself (my pets, my family, my toys, my tv characters, my food, my clothes, etc.) they were the go-to when art making in childhood. I just didn't stop. My methods, tools, thinking, and scale changed, but my imagination just refused to take me elsewhere and I think for good reason. Winning lotteries, weddings, deaths, and births certainly occur, but in all likelihood, most parts of a life are those less monumental everyday parts. I'm hoping viewers look at my work and walk away with a new understanding of something in their everyday they're overlooking. Perhaps then renewing their interest, perhaps bringing some well-warranted joy as resistance in the face of fast-paced hustle cultures and competitive capitalist doctrine. I'm pro rest and my work depicts a universe that (although strange at times) certainly is as well.



## THE DEPS ARTIST PROFILE SERIES

The DEPS Artist Profile Series presented by Columbia College Chicago's Department of Exhibitions, Performance and Student Spaces (DEPS), is a virtual publication on select artists involved with the DEPS Galleries and the Columbia College Chicago community. Our goal with this series is to connect artist and viewer on a deeper level, and to highlight the amazing works and thoughts of our featured artists through interviews, artist biographies, and catalogs of work. Art has always been a way to connect with others, no matter where one may physically be. We hope by presenting the creativity and insights of the people involved in the DEPS Artist Profile Series that viewers may have one more way to stay in touch with, and support the arts community. The DEPS Artist Profile Series is managed by Fine Arts major and DEPS Exhibitions Assistants Kaylee Fowler and Sierra Delamarter. Graphic design is managed by DEPS Exhibitions Assistant Gray Beyer. This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

Learn more at: [colum.edu/deps](http://colum.edu/deps)

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