

# **DANIELA CASTRO**

## **BFA MANIFEST 2023 SHOW**

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**DEPS ARTIST PROFILE SERIES**

May 12-June 6, 2023

# OUT OF THE BASEMENT: 2023 UNDERGRADUATE FINE ARTS THESIS EXHIBITION

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**May 12–June 6, 2023**

**Reception: Friday, May 12, 5–7 p.m.**

The Hollis Sigler Manifest Awards will be announced at 6 p.m.

*During the reception on May 12, there will be a performance by Cordelia Weatherby from 5–5:45 p.m.*

*Out of the Basement: 2023 Undergraduate Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition* features the works of thirteen BFA candidates in Columbia's Fine Arts program. The exhibition, which includes paintings, drawings, sculpture, prints, books, garments, video, performance, and installation works, represents the culmination of four years of development of a cohesive body of work for each artist while earning their degrees.

**Participating artists:** Jacob Ashba, Charlotte Briskin, Daniela Castro, Michelle Goldshmidt, Amairani Martinez, Ariaunna McCloud, emmalyn mueller, Kevin Rivera, Carolina Romo, James Ross, Sofie Way, Cordelia Weatherby, Emma Wilmarth.

*Out of the Basement: 2023 Undergraduate Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition* is presented in conjunction with the Department of Exhibitions, Performance, and Student Spaces (DEPS) and the Art and Art History department, and Adam Brooks, Professor at Columbia College Chicago.

# DANIELA CASTRO

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**Daniela Castro's** approach to art captures memories, and the elements that go into creating them. She utilizes circles by having each circle be its own being, with a beginning, a middle, and an end. Castro incorporates portraits to reinforce her idea of circles as being memories, because without a person, there would be no memory to exist. She uses a lot of color in her vivid memory paintings, because they have meanings associated with them, and their visual impact is remembered. Each circle is unique, representing the idea of a cluttered brain, particularly in her collage work. Castro believes that our brains are filled with the many memories we have experienced, including some we don't even remember because we cannot currently access them.

**Daniela Castro** is a Mexican American born and raised in Chicago. She is a mixed media artist that works with oil, acrylic, watercolor, sculpture, and digital media. Castro creates abstract art using circles symbolizing memories and events that have taken place in her life and is particularly inspired by experiences she's faced as a Hispanic and a first-generation college student.

**Website:** [daniela200049.wixsite.com/danielaartportfolio](https://daniela200049.wixsite.com/danielaartportfolio)

**Instagram:** [@ellaartsi](https://www.instagram.com/ellaartsi)





*Doubt*, 2022, acrylic on canvas, 10" x 10"





*Forgotten Memory*, 2022, acrylic and crackling medium on canvas, 26" x 26"





*It's a Metaphor, acrylic and spackle on canvas, 20" x 16"*





*Memory Jumble, acrylic on canvas, 20x20"*





*Mulberry Memories*, oil paint, cold wax, and spackle on canvas, 40" x 25"





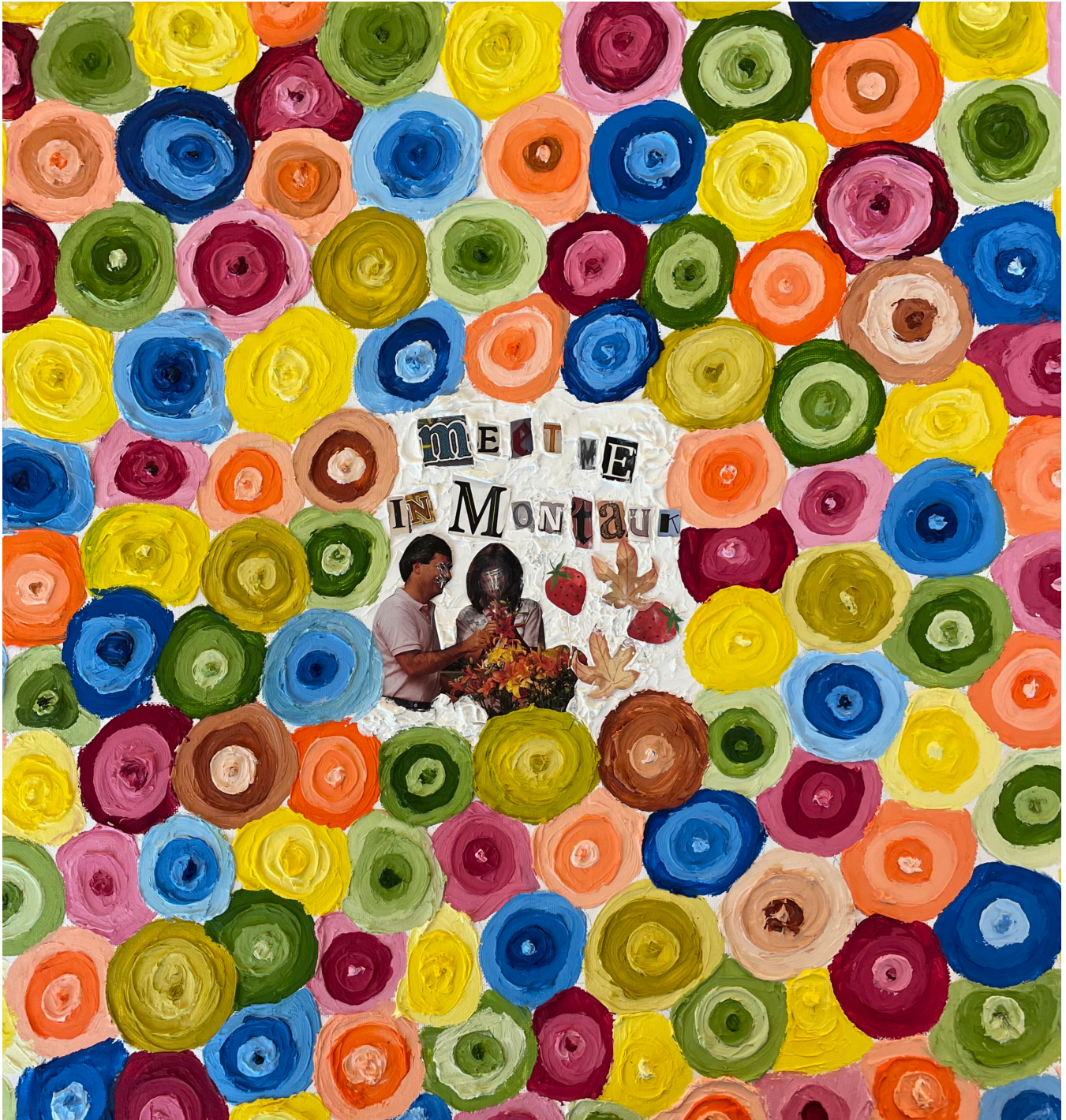
*Sad Clown*, oil on canvas, 20" x 16"





*Sorry You're Gone*, oil paint and cold wax on round canvas, 10" x 10"





*Spotless Mind*, oil paint and cold wax on canvas, 26" x 26"





Vortex, framed relief print, 12" x 12"



# INTERVIEW WITH DANIELA CASTRO

Conducted by Sierra Delamarter

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**Sierra Delamarter:** What first inspired you to use circles as a representation of memories? How does this work in conjunction with your figure-based portraits?

**Daniela Castro:** I started using circles after watching the movie *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*. The movie deals with memory and cycles which are created through the human mind. The movie does so by changing the main character's hair color throughout the film. Her hair color represents a cycle through the seasons, the use of using different seasons shows the cycle of life we all go through. We all live through the summers, and the winters, and all through those times we are creating memories. So I felt using circles with bright colors can represent memories, in that we all create them and have to live through the cycle in which we create. I connect my circles to my portraits because it takes someone to be able to even create these memories. Without someone in the portraits, no memories are created.

**SD:** Bright and saturated pinks and greens are often used in your pieces. What inspires your color schemes? How does this relate to the central concepts of your artwork?

**DC:** Pink and Green are my two favorite colors. I choose the colors that attract me more and add more colors that complement each other. I mix my colors a lot and change their hues in them to create more saturation. I do try to connect the colors of the emotion I feel about a certain memory or use the color that can be associated with that memory, such as using magenta for my mulberry tree memory.

**SD:** How do your own experiences inform your practice?

**DC:** My experiences help inspire my pieces of art. I will take something important to me and

use it as a base for my piece. Whether it be a portrait of someone who I found memories of or the mulberry tree I had in my backyard during my childhood.

**SD:** How does your collage and sculpture work help to express your memory concepts? How does your approach to painting differ from the way you engage with collage and sculpture?

**DC:** Collages are messy like our memories can be. When I create my collages I get inspired by one of the fragmented memories in my head. I will pick something from a book or something random I find lying around that reminds me of something. My collage cutouts are seen to be intertwined with my circles, where I want it to show the idea of a cluttered brain and how a memory can be distorted. While my sculptures are more an organized form to have the viewer see my memory more clearly.





## 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 DEPS Exhibitions Assistant Rachel Manlubatan and Sierra Delamarter. Graphic design is also managed by DEPS Exhibitions Assistant Rachel Manlubatan. This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

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

**Contact information:** Mark Porter, [mporter@colum.edu](mailto:mporter@colum.edu) / 312.369.6643

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**Glass Curtain Gallery:** 1104 S Wabash Ave, First Floor, Chicago, IL 60605

**Gallery Hours:** Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.