

2021

Artist Statement

Payton Brown

West Virginia University, pob0001@mix.wvu.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://researchrepository.wvu.edu/clio>



Part of the [Art and Design Commons](#), [History of Art, Architecture, and Archaeology Commons](#), [Museum Studies Commons](#), and the [Other Arts and Humanities Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Brown, Payton (2021) "Artist Statement," *Clio: WVU Art History Research Journal*: Vol. 1, Article 6.
Available at: <https://researchrepository.wvu.edu/clio/vol1/iss1/6>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by The Research Repository @ WVU. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Clio: WVU Art History Research Journal* by an authorized editor of The Research Repository @ WVU. For more information, please contact beau.smith@mail.wvu.edu.

Artist Statement by Payton Brown

By Payton Brown

My paintings are meant to explore personal experiences among viewers through their small, intimate nature. I create still life paintings of foods that are fairly popular and easily identifiable. By utilizing such familiar imagery, there are many emotions and personal connections that can coincide with these works, allowing every viewer to have a different individual experience.

Sitting down for a meal with family or friends, grabbing a snack before heading out the door, or even stopping at your favorite restaurant for a take-out meal are all experiences that we can relate to. Though these actions are common and may appear as just a form of sustenance rather than a deeper, more personal experience, different foods can often evoke specific feelings. Through these compositions of recognizable, popular foods, many emotions or memories may come to mind. Perhaps it will cause the viewer to recall a specific person, place, or time in their life.

All of my paintings are created with oil paint and they maintain a consistent size. By incorporating these images into such small canvases, the work becomes more intimate, as if the viewer is sitting down for a meal or viewing this food in front of them. This idea also inspired me to work in a realistic style. The majority of the works consist of rather warm color schemes, which resonate with me due to their comforting nature. While different colors may signify specific emotions in viewers, the warm colors in these paintings allow me to recall feelings such as nostalgia, comfort, and tradition.

Although I have emotional connections to these paintings, everyone's experiences with these foods will be different. For instance, an ice cream sundae reminds me of my favorite ice

cream shop that my friends and I go to during the summer in our hometown. However, any person could view this painting and have a completely different emotional experience; they could recall a family trip to an ice cream parlor, a summer evening with friends, or even a first date.

The work I have created serves the purpose of allowing us to find something that we all have in common through shared experiences. These traditional, common foods translate into personal, individual occurrences that stick with us through our lives because of their emotional significance.



Payton Brown, *MeNU*, oil on canvas, 2021