

Wish You Were Here: *Holly Mathews*

When did you live in the Bay Area, and what brought you here?

I moved to San Francisco in 2008, to pursue my BFA at the Academy of Art University. After graduation, I began teaching at the University and began to build my career as a fine artist.

What prompted you to leave?

I moved away from the Bay Area (for the first time), in 2015, to pursue my MFA at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia, PA. I then returned to the Bay Area after graduation for a teaching position at Santa Clara University. I moved away from the Bay Area again to take a position in Hong Kong in 2019, where due to the current political movement and Covid pandemic, I moved back to the Bay Area sooner than expected. I will be moving away from the Bay Area again this fall to teach in Savannah, GA.

Where did you end up?

Not sure I have ended up anywhere quite yet, but simply following where the next opportunity takes me. I am currently in flux and staying in the Bay Area for the first half of 2020, as I am transitioning from living in Hong Kong to moving to Savannah, GA.

Has your artwork changed or evolved since you left the Bay Area?

Absolutely. My direction, work, and practice have gone through massive areas of growth and evolution. The themes, aesthetic, application of medium, and process of creating are very different since I have left the Bay Area. A lot of that had to do with attending graduate school where I was able to hone into my artistic direction with more clarity and intent.

What are you up to now?

I am a painter who continues to have an active studio practice, continues to exhibit, and who is building a creative career. I am also a full time Professor of Foundations and Painting at the Savannah College of Arts.