

Traumatic experiences can rob us. Triggers, memory blocks, and stunted or accelerated maturation are common among those living with childhood post-traumatic stress disorder, a chunk of one's formation stolen by some nefarious misfortune or misfortunes of years past. In *Mother, A Three-Part Exploration*, I sought to explore my relationship with memory as someone living with PTSD by rendering and thereby confronting challenging traumas of my own.

I decided to articulate my concepts through a triptych consisting of three six-by-two foot oil paintings. The use of space was central to my work—I framed each image claustrophobically. Areas of black enclose narrow spaces of visual information, reflecting the obstructions one's mind imposes on their memories after experiencing trauma and telling the stories of the memories depicted from an intimate, sometimes even first-person view. Despite including figurative elements, scenes are purposefully abstract, similar to the abstract and elusive nature of remembrance. With each piece tied to a memory uniquely significant to my development, I hope the viewer will experience a level of closeness and intimacy by which they may understand my experience with trauma and memory. The viewer is first encouraged to observe the pieces as complete forms before inspecting the figurative elements more closely, moving through the three pieces in no particular order.

MOTHER, A THREE-PART EXPLORATION

Alexander (Alex) K.