

Following the Thread:

A Self-Directed Artist Residency



Memory as Image, Symbol, and Artifact

Monette Satterfield, Summer 2025

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Memory is a house with
uncertain walls

About this Residency

This self-directed artist residency took place over four weeks in June of 2025, grounded in a personal theme: Following the Thread.

Working in my own studio, I explored the role of memory in shaping identity, letting the thread of memory lead the work. My focus was on open-ended exploration rather than output, using monotype, drawing, and handmade stamps to investigate the shapes and symbols of my early memories - house outlines, windows, doors, stars, and layered marks emerging naturally through brayer and stamps.

This project allowed me to work deeply within a structure of my own making, allowing the work to reveal itself. This book gathers what surfaced: fragments, forms, and artifacts from that focused time. Not a record, but a reflection.

Memory begins in haze
and shape without
solidity

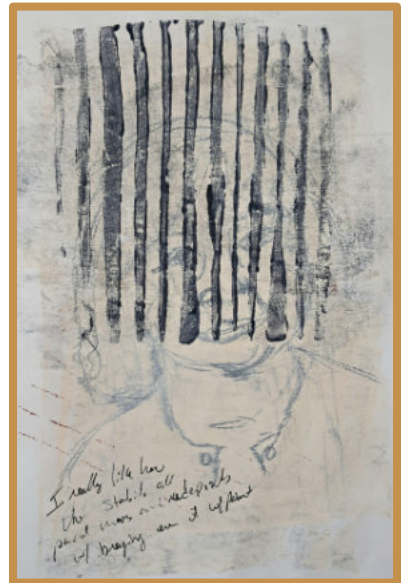
Memories in Fragments

Here, recurring shapes and textures began forming a visual vocabulary: stars, windows, doors, and the shifting outline of the house.



Early forms, hazy memories, and the shape of childhood.

My own form in memory and sketch.

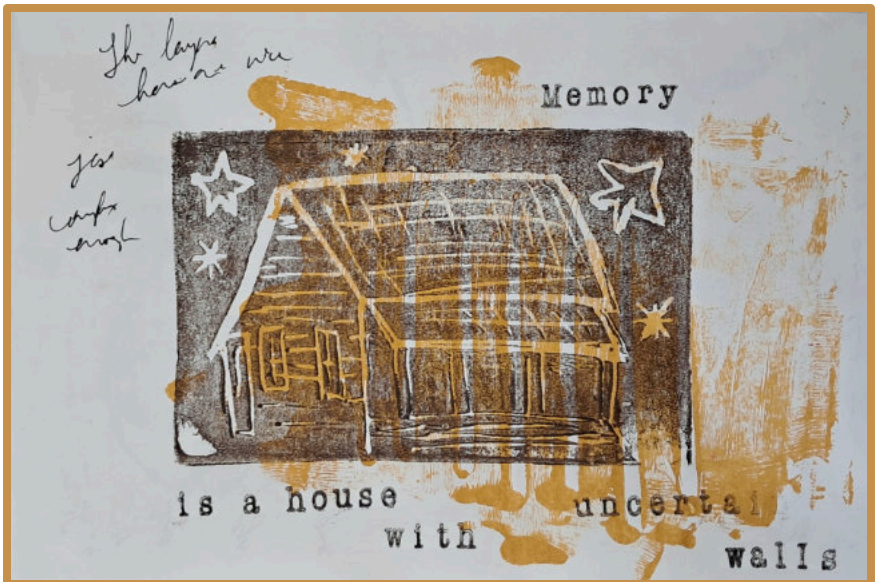




The house - abstracted and reformed.



The house - reformed again..





Orange blossoms: the scent of my childhood.

Stars and embers in the grass are the same in memory.



The house as shape and line.

Memory is a Texture

Symbols Become Language

Here, recurring shapes and textures began forming a visual vocabulary: stars, windows, doors, and the shifting yet solidifying shape of the house.

Lines echo the enclosing walls of the house.



Lifting free yet grounded...



Stars both shine down and pull upward.

The house is magical in my memory.



Memory is alchemy

Memory Made Visible

The final pieces distill the essence of the project - layered, symbolic images that carry both personal meaning and emotional weight.



Dancing stars and grounding lines move together.

Rising, falling stars into a doorway.





Windows look out to stars
beckoning.

Three stars dance together.



Come, rise up here.



Magic is built into this house.



Solidity and safety made visible.

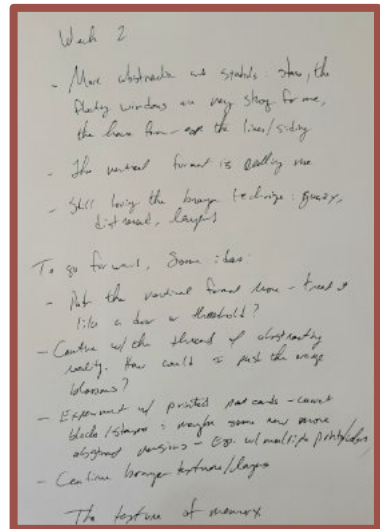
Memory made tangible

Studio Process Notes



The color palette I chose represents the worn and sepia colors of memory with an accent of sharp green.

Notes and reflections from the second week; noting that the vertical format is calling strongly and how much I love the brayer textures.





Making my own stamps and print blocks carved from foam allowed me to use my own symbols and forms.

Rearranging the studio into an unfamiliar layout delineated a container for the work.



A photo of my childhood - the fragment of the house in the image is part of the magic of these memories.

Memory forms and reforms
as we revisit it

Epilogue

I'm coming to a natural—and very satisfying—end to this self-directed artist residency: Following the Thread.

Reflecting on my time in the studio, I've realized how much I value the combination of a clear framework with the freedom to explore inside it. The structure gave me just enough of a boundary to hold the work, while leaving space for the unexpected to surface. That balance of focus and freedom felt both productive and creatively nourishing. I'm already thinking about using this kind of approach in future series.



This book feels like a natural extension of the work itself: collecting fragments, images, and symbols into something whole.

I'm also selecting several of the finished prints that I'll offer as high-quality art prints. These pieces feel like the clearest distillation of the project: visual artifacts that carry both memory and transformation.

This project has been both grounding and expansive, and I'm content to let the thread rest here—for now.



Memory makes its own
shape and symbol

Symbology



Symbols emerged and took on deeply personal meaning and resonance.



Memory is a house with
uncertain walls

Follow the Thread...

If you'd like to see the full collection from this residency, visit the exhibition page on my website. You'll find the finished pieces, selected prints, and a deeper look at the project's evolution.

To follow my future work and occasional projects like this one, you're welcome to join my newsletter—it's the best way to hear directly from me and my studio.

[Following the Thread Exhibition Page](#)

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