Ephemer al/Perpetual Memory

To explore the idea of layers is to examine the nature of modern humanity—there are so many external influences on individuals that they are forced to keep fragments of experiences within them throughout life. I illustrated this notion when I successfully explored physical layers representing metaphorical aspects of identity and experience with several Plexiglas portraits of my Japanese-American family. I used multiple layers and ethnic symbolism to describe their dual existence as both Japanese and American at a time when they were forced to choose. I found it extremely important to describe their experiences in this manner because it provides physical context for events which previously only existed in the past or within the person. I want to further investigate my family history by truly delving into the immigrant experience of both my Japanese and Italian families, representing mental and physical identity crises. I would also like to push myself beyond completely relying on representation to talk about humanity and use abstraction in conjunction with the figure. I aim to not only experiment with the medium to its limits, but to also explore my family and myself, leaving this work as a record of time and memory.

As a painter and printmaker, I am generally attracted to the two-dimensionality of design. As I continued to evolve my artistic practice, I started to experiment with these two-dimensional media on a variety of materials. I very quickly became inspired by translucent materials on which to work. When working
on transparent material, I realized two potentials that do not exist within paper, canvas or board: that of layering and sculpture. These can be achieved to some degree, for example, by using collage; however the transparency allows for the viewer to closely examine each layer that has been constructed.

Further, the Plexiglas does not only serve as a vessel for materials to be placed on—it exists in space as its own entity, fulfilling a separate intention. I can experiment with Plexiglas in ways simply not possible with traditional materials. I want to emphasize these qualities by physically layering multiple small sheets of painted and printed Plexiglas. I will construct an armature using Plexiglas hardware so that the sheets will be connected and organized to hang against the wall, yet they will also exist three dimensionally, similar to a relief sculpture. I will create several large works comprised of smaller sheets of Plexiglas to exist as a body of work.

Timeline

October 8th - 31st: Research, plan and acquire materials (Plasticare, Guiry’s)

November 1st - December 31st: Work on initial piece, finish before the start of Winter Quarter

January 1st - February 28th: Work on second piece, finish before the start of Spring Quarter

March 1st – April 30th: Work on final piece, finish before end of academic year

Budget

Plexiglas: $1000

Hardware for hanging/installation: $100

Paint/Media/Ink: $400