

## Artist's Statement

Melinda Earle

### *'The Halcyon days'*

My body of work is a short series of Self-portraits primarily experimenting with different techniques and canvas'-- With the theme of childhood as an umbrella to investigate under. However, Eager to experiment with a multitude of different techniques and styles I had never tried before and inspired by artworks from artists like Matisse (In particular, his artwork *'Woman with a hat'*) and Joseph Lee (And his artwork *'Self'*), I aimed to see how far I could push the boundaries of the world of color. I achieved this by using my reference pictures (Images of me as a young child) as the basis for this experiment. I used color as a medium to bring variety and unity to the body of work—Tying in each individual portrait by making sure that they all had something in common while still making sure that each one was unique enough to capture the audience's attention. I was also inspired by artworks from artists like Ben Quilty (for example, his artwork *'Air Commodore John Oddie, After Afghanistan, No. 2'*) and the numerous cave paintings found in the Lascaux cave system (My favorite being the *'Hall of the bulls'*), All paintings introduced me to the concept of contrast, positive and negative space. It was these works that gave me the unrelenting desire to create a body of work that played around with the concept of canvas vs paint, seeing to what extent did the canvas transform from the material the painting is done on, to becoming the actual painting. These experiments with space brought forth contrast—important because it helps to add visual interest and emphasize the focal points of my design. It is with certainty that I can say that this body of work is an exploration of experimentation of the idyllic childhood years.