



AUDREY STONE

STATEMENT

*Rome series*

The series was inspired by my family history in Rome. My father was born there into a large Jewish Italian family. (His mother was Scottish and had moved to Rome to study opera.) Just before WW2 my grandparents sent my father to Scotland to live with his Scottish grandparents and they were meant to follow but did not make it out of Italy in time. They were separated and interred in Italy, I think just outside Rome, throughout the war. My grandfather became ill and died towards the end of the war. The rest of the family was in hiding throughout the war.

The paintings derive from the notion of what is known and not known about my family. My father was a child when all this happened and he had a very different experience of the war than his Italian relatives who remained in Rome. What he told us was filtered - I imagine - from what his family might have been open to sharing with him, as well as his young memory. What he told us as kids was then filtered through what he himself was willing to share.

The feeling that something perhaps very similar to what my father's family experienced is now brewing again was an inspiring aspect to creating this series.

There are seven paintings in the series. 7, said to be a lucky number, was my father's favorite number and he had the birthdate 7/7/27.

Having just spent some time in Rome, I was very struck by the layering of the physical aspects of history throughout the city. We also went to the archive and found my family line back to the 1700s in Rome, perhaps longer but that's where the books stop. So, seeing the street that my father was born on, with a ruin in the piazza it was on, as well as knowing that he saw this ruin being excavated and restored when he was a child, was an astonishing feeling of fluidity of history and connection.