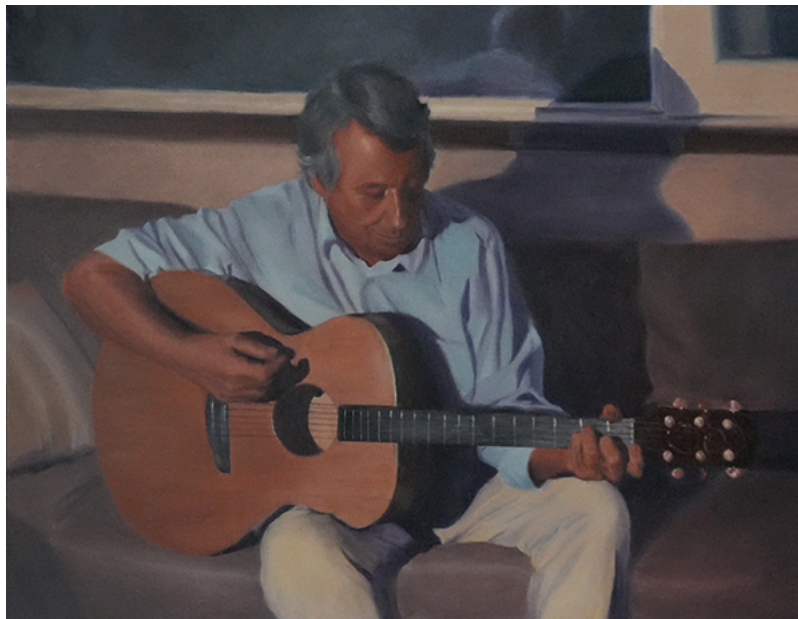


Artist Statement

IDENTITIES SERIES

Our life roles and identities are not inherently visible; rather, they take on meaning through our mental concepts, skills, and practices, as well as our place of birth, purpose, and life path. We are or are not globalists, dreamers, parents, professionals, artists, athletes, travelers, drivers, photographers, and connected through phones. For this Identities series, which is far from comprehensive, I provided a small glimpse into balancing the multitude with paintings of four figures in several environments related to roles or identities.

Revisiting my own life, I selected my closest beloved and myself as subjects for these paintings. I used photographs from my archives depicting activities related to roles or identities. To complement this method, I arranged and observed the models in other roles and identities, taking new pictures for further reference selection. I employed the classic academic method of realistic oil painting with abstraction, simplified environments, and reduced, harmonious color schemes that diverge from reality. The process of painting for this series was a slow one involving drawing, the entire canvas coverage with pre-mixed limited palette of oil colors and several rounds of detailed improvements to the figures.



Guitarist, oil on canvas board, 24"x32"

"Guitarist" is an example from this series in which the subject's identity is revealed through a musical instrument. The simplified environment depicts a guitarist reflected in

the window behind him as he plays the guitar at home. The painting's color scheme conveys a harmonious atmosphere related to the music he is playing.

I focus on this topic to reflect on the roles and identities I see around me, feel are part of my personal characteristics, or still dream of trying or developing. With my dream of becoming an artist for the people here and now, I believe in the transformative power of beauty for people alike. It could be any person on the painting, and I hope you will find at least one of your own identities, or perhaps reflect about "Who do I still want to become?", as there is always time to better understand the true life purpose.

Kaya Frantiska Coulombier