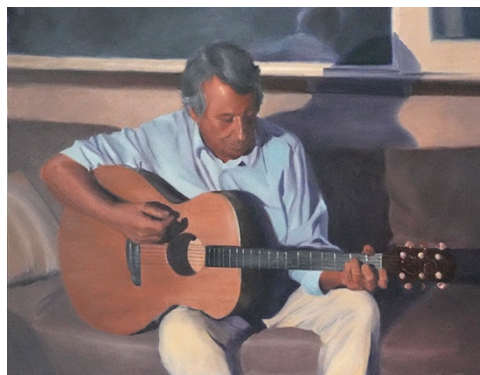


Artist Statement

PORTRAITS OF BELOVED

Reflecting my own life, I chose my closest beloved and myself as subjects, using archival photographs that capture our characteristic activities. I also arranged and observed the models in additional roles, taking new reference images. The paintings follow a classical academic approach to realistic oil painting, combined with abstraction, simplified environments, and reduced, harmonious color schemes. The slow, layered process—drawing, full-canvas underpainting with a limited palette, and several rounds of modeling—allowed softness in the brushwork to express my emotional involvement.



Guitarist, oil on canvas board, 24"x32"

"Guitarist" exemplifies this series: identity revealed through a man sitting and playing a musical instrument, a simplified home interior, and the subject's reflection in a window behind him. Blues and earthy yellows and oranges create a quiet harmony connected to the music he plays.

The activities portrayed are offered as subtle points of recognition, allowing viewers to encounter elements of their own experiences within the depicted scenes. Through this series, I hope to invite for connection with beauty's transformative power and for reflection on viewer's present or aspirational activities.

Kaya Frantiska Coulombier