

"Why are California's Trees Dying?" --New York Times, Feb. 10, 2023.

In 2021, a friend met me for a hike through a pine forest in Angwin, Napa County. On our hike we saw trees lying on the forest floor. There was a pause. My friend explained how years of drought and resulting disease were affecting trees in the area, particularly pines.

In 2022, I began visiting my friend's property in the foothills of Mount Saint Helena. So many pine trees stand dry and bare. Trees drop limbs in winter storms or fall to the ground from their own weight. Hillsides once dense with life now reveal patches of sky.

The trees are a visible reminder of a story still unfolding, as nature responds to our changing climate. "Story of the dying trees, California" evolved over the past year as a personal response to this change. Pulling back a curtain to reveal a view of our future, what will we find?

Note of inspiration: In 2020 I saw Joan Brown's self-portrait "Flora, 1961" at Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento. The stillness of her figure inspired the figure in this piece.

I am grateful to be included in this show.

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