

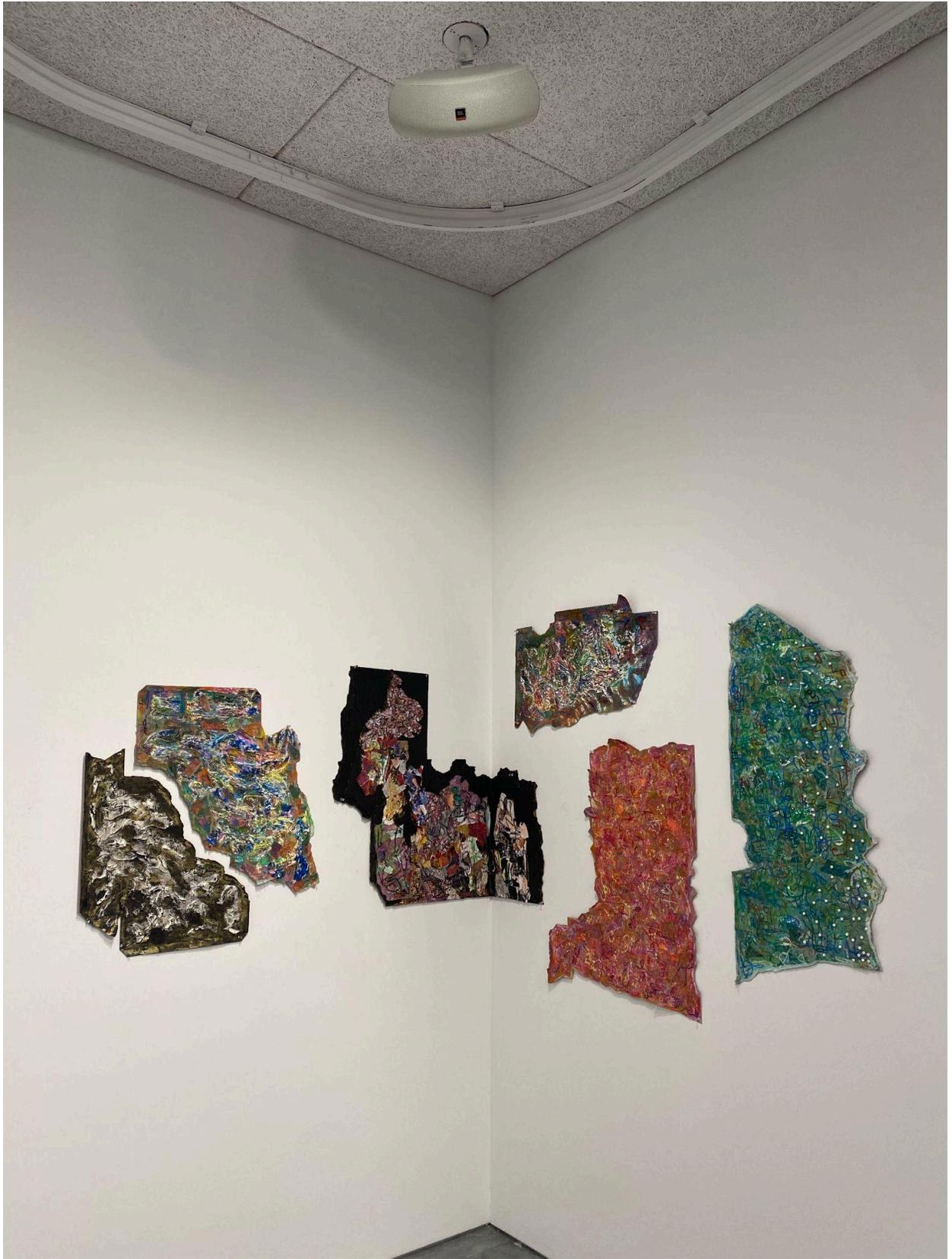
Kathleen Firment

Lovethings

It was the passing of my grandmother at the beginning of this semester that pulled the meaning of this work out from somewhere I didn't know existed. Struck by the dichotomy between the relief that she was not suffering and the grief of the loss of a family member, I was confused by how many emotions a death could instill in a person. Moreover, I found a strange sense of peace in how many physical *things* my grandmother left behind, like her scarves, perfumes, and jewelry. People typically say you can't take your things with you when you go, but they fail to note that you can leave your things behind for others.

This series, entitled *Lovethings*, is a representation of the physicality of mortality. There is a strong presence of human craft in my pieces, intended to emphasize the practices of mark-making and texture to acknowledge the human ability to create, as well as the unique power we have to produce objects as a means of preserving an existence. This series is a celebration of materialism and maximalism in a controlled state and a recognition of the impacts materials can have on memory and grief. This series was process-driven, with a great emphasis placed on the individual production of each piece. I maintained my mediums as fairly accessible materials, such as grocery bags, cardboard, and spackle to further emphasize the human experience of production, and each piece serves as a conscious rendition of an aspect of mourning and healing that occurred as I explored this creative process.

These "lovethings" became more personal with each one I made. They're my tangible way—not just as an artist, but as a person—to say: "Hey, I was here. Thank you for noticing."





Agent I
Spackle and oil pastel on cardboard



Agent II

Magazine collage, paper bags, gold foil, paint, and oil pastel on cardboard



Lovething Hatething

Spackle, paper bags, paint, and oil pastel on cardboard



Lovething in Blue

Spackle, oil pastel, and beads, on paper bag



Lovething in Pink
Oil pastel on paper bag