



## **This Look of Love**

JaneMelyn Strode

*Oil on canvas*

*24 x 36 inches*

I have been thinking about mothers a lot recently. One year ago, my mom's mom passed away after a multi-year-long battle with dementia. Towards the end, there was very little left of my grandma. My mom grasped at anything that reminded her of motherly love—holding her hand, laying in her bed with her, making her laugh. My mom visited her every single Sunday, and occasionally I joined her. I watched my mom come face to face with what would be my worst nightmare. I watched mother-daughter roles reverse, my mom now having to provide care and comfort to her own mom as dementia hijacked her mind. But despite my mom facing this long, drawn out heartbreak, she still showed up every weekend and sat with her mom and held her hand. This painting, *This Look of Love*, shows this moment of connection—a shared look between mother and daughter captured through my eyes. By painting this moment, I contemplate the relationship between mother and daughter, and how that relationship changes as time goes on.