

What artists are really doing when they take up residencies

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Given that the gender-based responsibilities of family caretaking are generally weighted against women, it can be extremely difficult for women artists to drop responsibilities and take off for a month. ‘This is my first residency ever,’ says one of this year’s artists, the Indian-born, Chicago-based multidisciplinary artist Soumya Netrabile. ‘I even came to my art career later in life because I had to put family first.’ Since the artist paints pieces that mediate between abstraction and representation, exploring how the body relates to natural terrain, the Tuscan forest surrounding the studios has been significant to her. ‘It’s important to make work that is perceptual and to let myself engage with all the details of the details of the landscape,’ she says.

This includes dawn walks in the forest, immersing herself in the bark of the wild *pini* and ‘collecting as much information as I can from nature to take back to my studio in the US.’



Soumya Netrabile in her studio at Villa Lena. Photo: Eugenia Pavlenko; © She CURAtes The Residency