

Elisa Dore

Seattle, WA | elisadore.com | IG: [@elisa.dore](https://www.instagram.com/elisa.dore)

As an artist of Puerto Rican descent raised in the southern United States, place and culture play a dominant role in my work. I make work that explores my ancestry and family, existing between two cultures, and how it shapes my identity. My work references this middle ground, this duality of belonging to two different cultures yet not fully fitting into either one.

A core theme in my work is the search for belonging—belonging where I grew up, where my family has roots, places I have lived, places I have visited. As a mixed Puerto Rican and white person, I come from a Native, Black, and Spanish Puerto Rican mother and a German and Irish father. My ancestors on both sides have always been in migration, have always left home in search of a better place to settle. I feel tension between these two sides of me, but always a deep longing for what home and connection to a place means. I draw inspiration from the natural environments that surround me, specifically the flora and fauna of these places. I combine elements of the natural world with human figures to create detailed scenes that convey a narrative.

My work is an outlet to tell personal stories and experiences but also an invitation for others to draw their own meaning from its imagery. The labor intensive way of carving a detailed design into a block is the means for how I process my desire for beauty and intricacy. My work is a meditative practice for me to work through emotions and generational trauma, as well as the histories and stories of my community. While I have experimented with working in most print mediums, I focus on relief printmaking because of the fine detail that I can achieve with carving a block, which is an intrinsic part of how I create art.



Elisa is an artist of Puerto Rican descent born and raised in the suburbs of Atlanta, Georgia, and currently living in Seattle. She has spent the past four years in Seattle working in food service and recently as a printmaking instructor while maintaining an active printmaking practice. She will begin her MFA in printmaking at Georgia State University in the Fall of 2023.