

Artist Statement

Coalesce is a body of work based on the universal use of food and gatherings to foster human connections with others. The act of people gathering at meals and having food at major life celebrations is a large part of cultures throughout the world. While the enjoyment of food is a commonality that brings people together it is the human interactions, discussions, laughter and drama that entice people to attend. The inherent need for this type of bonding was greatly lacking during the Covid-19 lockdowns. I felt the physical distance between myself and my family which magnified the lack of human connection. This led me to feel a greater need to create work that people can use during these gatherings to come back together and reestablish those connections.

I have created this body of work to focus on three different types of environments that foster connections between people. "Weekly Debriefing" is a dinnerware set specifically designed for that "Sunday Dinner," where the family gathers together to bond and converse about the week ahead. The piece "Heated Debate" is a BBQ set and is meant to be used at outdoor gatherings with friends and family. These get-togethers can often lead to heated debates about the best way to cook a certain meat or the best recipe for pie but are almost always going to end with everyone laughing with full bellies. "Girl Talk" is a sangria set in which I address the drastic disparity between the expected stereotype of frivolous "girl talk" with the very real and important issues that women discuss amongst themselves. This is represented in the decorative elements inspired by the collars of the late Justice Ginsburg.

At the end of the day, my work is meant to be used and enjoyed. Whether it's a quiet cup of coffee in the morning or a boisterous group watching a football game. The goal is for people to come together and enjoy themselves with those they care about. When humans gather together around food our bodies, minds, and souls are being fed and nourished.