

# Portrait of Companions in Memories

18x24 in. Oil and acrylic on canvas. 2025.

**Artist: Catalina Cao**

This artwork is a visual representation of my identity and explores themes of sentimentality and childhood nostalgia. It portrays five teddy bears I own from the perspective of my childhood self, whose imagination viewed these stuffed bears in an anthropomorphic way. As a child, my parents cared little for me and prohibited socializing with peers. These stuffed animals became my closest companions. On the right side, the larger bear has been with me since the age of one, the smaller since five. The two on the left were part of a much larger collection I once owned. The bear in the centre holds the deepest significance as it has accompanied me since early infancy, forming the foundation for this bond.

To this day, these five bears are just as valuable and dear to me as they were to my childhood self. They have witnessed my growth, accompanied me through difficult times, and provided a sense of security and comfort in my life—embodying the human-like emotional bond I lacked in childhood. Through this artwork, I capture the weight sentimental objects can carry. They can be a reminder of who we are, where we come from, and the experiences that have shaped us.



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