



## Artist Statement

Jessica Ellera y

Tel: 07419122484

Email: [artist@jessicaellera y.com](mailto:artist@jessicaellera y.com)

Web: [www.jessicaellera y.com](http://www.jessicaellera y.com)

### Background

Jessica Ellera y received her BA Hons in Fine Art and Creative Writing from Lancaster University in 2017 and is currently working on her Masters in Collecting and Provenance at the University of Glasgow. She lives in Silverdale and works from her studio at Halecat House in Witherslack, Cumbria. Jessica also works as a curator; most recently organising an exhibition of national and international artists alongside co-curator Elinor Moore for the Lancaster Words Festival. Awards to date include the Dean's Art Prize, 2017 and the Chrysalis Bursary and Development program, 2018-2020.

### About the Artist

Jessica Ellera y is a research artist based in the South Lakes. Her work is inspired by heritage narratives, especially those that have been obscured over time or through human activity. She has a particular interest in the looting and trafficking of antiquities and cultural property, as well as local, overlooked heritage. Jessica works in painting, sculpture and installation, playing with texture and chemical reactions to create evocative work, as well as engaging with communities and interest groups.

In Jessica's practice, the artist becomes archaeologist, uncovering these untold stories and bringing them to light; reflecting on the relationships between people, places and objects. Walter Benjamin wrote that he who seeks to approach his own buried past, must conduct himself like a man digging. He could just as easily have written; buried story. The archaeological ethics of patience, association and storytelling are reflective of the artist's own. Where in lies a similar devotion to detail, labour in process and the critical nature of context and concept.

But where archaeology looks to create a familiar narrative in otherness, Jessica invites personal interpretation and engagement. Working in her chosen mediums of painting and sculpture, she seeks to start a conversation - to invite viewers to own their own experience. Jessica's techniques are highly textural and unusual, playing with copper and chemical processes to make evocative work which tells a story.