This paper contemplates the need for memory in a contemporary society preoccupied with the present. This attention to memory is prompted by a desire to explore the nature of conflict and loss, in addition the need to understand and preserve the past. For the purpose of this thesis it is my intention to contextualize my paintings in the areas of art history, memory, trauma, loss and resolution. The paintings in "Artifact and Fantasy" are an articulation of memory and resolution after trauma and loss. This stems from how the experience of memory breaks down over time, and the ways in which past perceptions, feelings and emotions are actually revised in the act of remembering. This body of work invites introspection, maybe even escapism. My use of nostalgia, sentimentality and irony encourages the viewer to reflect in the past and provides a bridge between remembrance and transcendence, where the human spirit strives for resolution, comfort, hope or simply humorous relief from stress or pain.