

Rachel S. Fesperman

**Independent Scholar of Global Contemporary Art,
Interdisciplinary Fiber Artist**

Portfolio of Work

Artist Statement

I question the meaning and existence of gender in my work.

Using methods and materials that have been gendered feminine throughout time, I mingle threads with found objects to study identity in today's world.

As a child I was fascinated by textiles, as I am today. I use materials that are both self-evident and, when combined with their armatures, are far more than the sum of their parts.

My work is nuanced and gentle, yet harsh. It is genderless and fragile; it is feminine and disturbing. For me, fibers are a way of processing my own trauma and identity.

I process the world through yarn, fabric, and thread; I build my own reality through the strands.

I am neither an art historian who makes nor am I an artist who has studied art history.

Instead, I am both artist and art historian.

I combine my years of art historical study into subtle influences and references in my art practice.

I am always both, yet neither.

Art history is a parody of itself. It is hilarious, vulgar, destructive, and beautiful.

I like art that makes me laugh and I like laughter that can become art.



Safety First, 2022,
soft sculpture on vintage egg plate,
safety pin, embroidery thread



Safety First,
(detail), 2022,
soft sculpture
on vintage egg
plate, safety pin,
embroidery thread



*Rock Weaving I:
Bowled Over,
2022,
hand woven
asphalt
on porcelain dish*



*Rock Weaving I:
Bowled Over,
(detail), 2022,
hand woven
asphalt
on porcelain dish*



Mise en Bouteille, 2022,
soft sculpture on vintage
silver tray with handwoven
lotus pods and wine cork



Mise en Bouteille, (detail)
2022,
soft sculpture on vintage
silver tray with handwoven
lotus pods and wine cork



*Stick Weaving I: Plate Metal, 2022,
Handwoven logs and vintage plate*



Stick Weaving I: Plate Metal, (detail) 2022,
Handwoven logs and vintage plate



Rock Weaving III: Women's Work, 2022,
hand woven granite and twig on bamboo spatula



Rock Weaving III: Women's Work,
(detail), 2022,
hand woven granite and twig
on bamboo spatula