

ARTIST STATEMENT

MARILYN STEVENS

Using traditional handwork techniques, I combine imagery, text, handmade paper and textiles in unconventional ways. At first glance, one sees re-appropriation and re-use of pattern paper and dress forms. But further exploration of each piece reveals a multitude of layers; a host of stories, feelings and life reflections. The stitch, often used in my pieces is a connection to previous generations. Rather than a pragmatic practice, the stitch is an intentional mark, a means of expression.

BIOGRAPHY

A native of Nebraska, I received my BA in Journalism from the University of Nebraska. Currently a resident of Minneapolis, I balance my time between art and running a design consulting business for the home furnishings industry. My art ambition started later in life after feeling a creative void for authenticity and personal expression. Many years have been spent nurturing my craft to become an accomplished artist with recent exhibitions at the Phipps in Hudson, WI and the Museum of American Art in St Paul, MN. My work has been described as elegant, intelligent and thought provoking.

EDUCATION/PROFESSIONAL

BS Advertising/Journalism, Minor Clothing & Design, University of NE
Fine Arts Classes, Continuing Studies, MCAD 1994-Present
Women's Art Institute, Grand Marais, MN May 2002
Women's Art Registry of MN, Member 1999-2002
Women's Art Institute, Minneapolis, MN June 2003
Rosalux Gallery Cooperative Member, Minneapolis, MN Dec 04-06

EXHIBITIONS

St Catherine's College, "Gems", St Paul, MN June 2004 (group)
Rosalux Gallery, "Live with It", Minneapolis, MN 2005 (group)
Rosalux Gallery, "Stitch", Minneapolis, MN 2006 (two-person)
The Phipps, "Life in the Layers", Hudson, WI 2007 (group)
MN Museum of American Art, "3-D Biennial", St Paul, MN 2007-08
(group)

COMMISSIONS

Fargo Forum Newspaper, Fargo, ND, 2008
Gunkelman Fleisher Interior Design, Minneapolis, MN 2007
Gunkelman Fleisher Interior Design, New York, NY 2008

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