

Erin Grace

Fiber Artist

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flourish

Flourish is a series of work that focuses on process and being present in the midst of creation.

This body of work is marked by an emphasis on human life and the value of each unique individual. When we are able to focus on the present using those experiences to carry us forward, we can look back and see that the seasons have changed, see there has been growth all along and recognize that all experience leads to flourishing.

Each piece emphasizes mark making and texture to create visually interesting compositions that utilize varied mediums but are unified through abstract application of materials. Variation and repetition are ideas that I juxtapose across my entire body of work, focusing on variation within texture, line quality, and color where repetition is utilized in creating unity through creating marks primarily in multiples of three as well as replicating gestural application of materials to allow for unified pieces. In creating each one of these pieces, my physical body was utilized to apply paint and to create texture, this is primarily seen through applying finger and toe prints to the piece, and also involving my body in the application of material as seen in tufting.

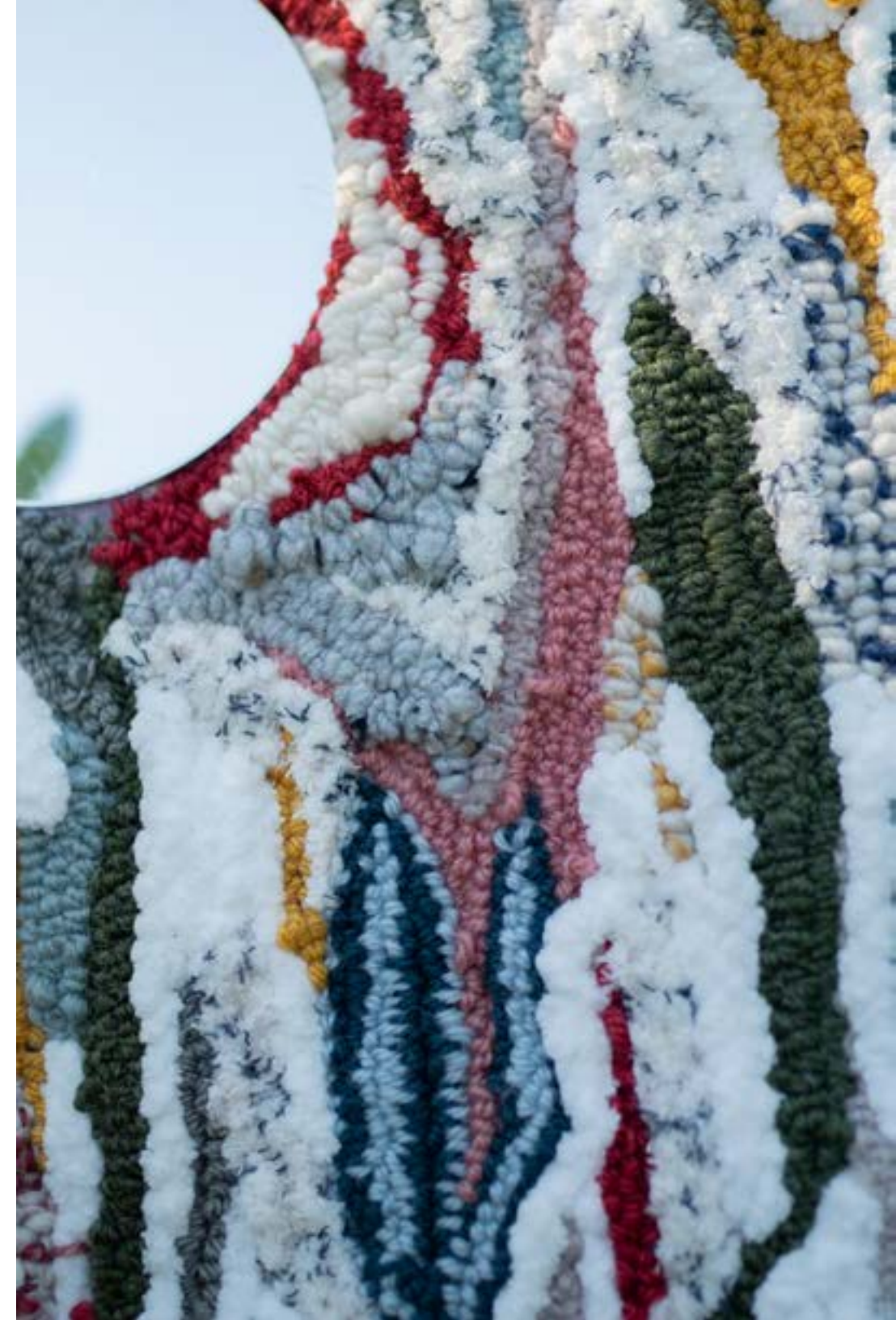
Shattered Reflections

Mirrors are objects that show a reflection, this piece is intended as an object of self-reflection. To be able to look at one's self and acknowledge not only the present reflection, but the things past and look forward to the future, exposes ultimate reflection. This piece emphasizes evaluation and self-reflection. Whether the reflection looking back is what you expected you'd be or something you wouldn't there is still a need to ponder experience and embrace who you are. Reflection allows for seeing the value and worth in not only others but also yourself.

This piece was inspired by my daily practice which involved combining poetry and painting as a means for self-reflection. These ideas were then translated into more tactile forms through tufting and the application of mirrors.

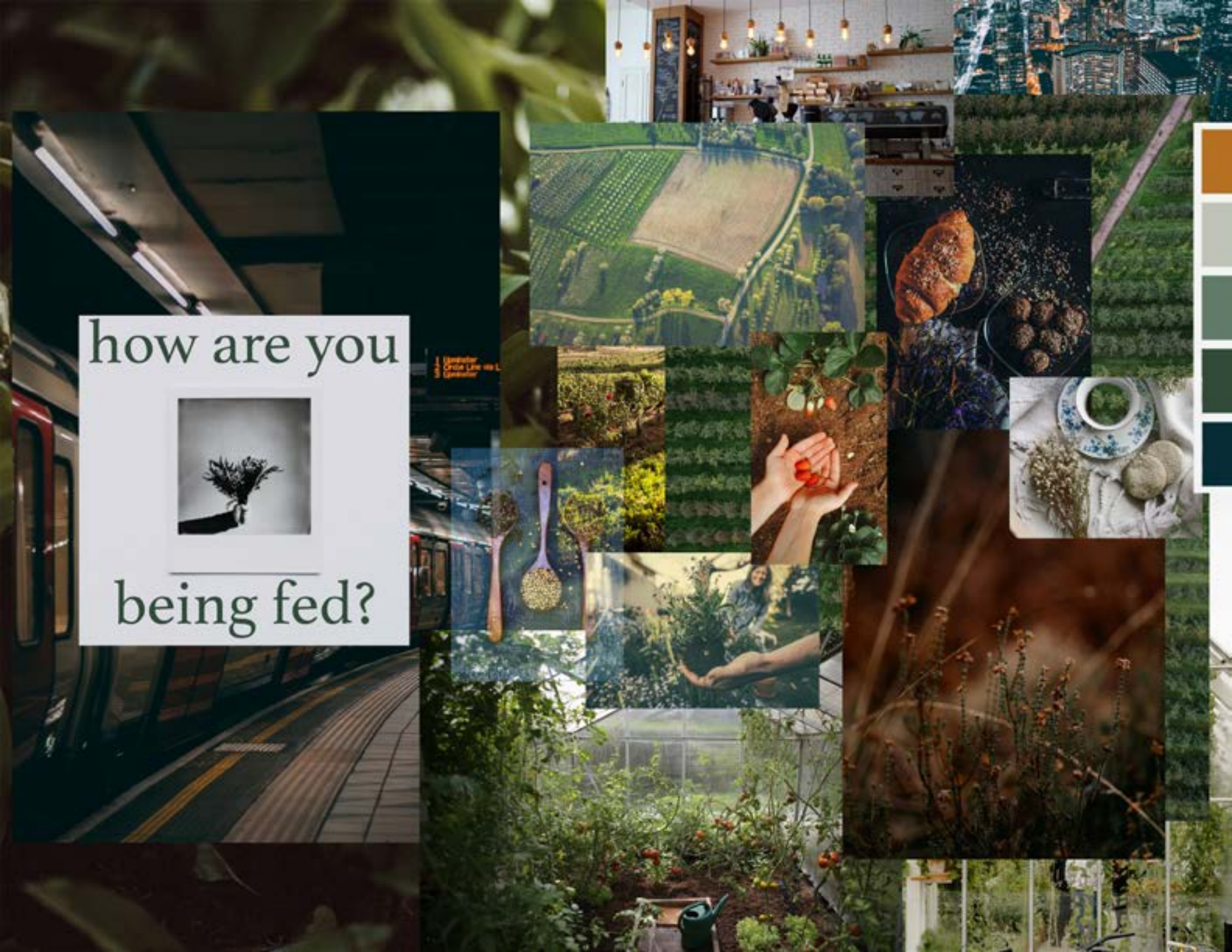
The textures within this piece translate visually the intertwining of experiences within people. Just as each yarn works together to create a whole piece, we each have experiences that make us up, to complete the whole picture of who we are.







Shattered Reflections



The Daily Digest

How are you being fed? A question posed to me that drove the concept for this piece. There is so much more to who we are than just what we produce or how productive we can be. The question when we're not so focused on the output then becomes, "What are you choosing to fill yourself with?" Each one of us is made up of so many different pieces ranging from personalities to physical appearances and experiences. Just as a collage is a conglomeration of images that in combination create a completed composition, what we choose to fill ourselves with shapes who we are.

Collage parallels the experience of life and how little moments in combination create a completed life, just as multiple images create a completed image. The use of tufted materials adds to the textural quality of this piece and helps to further the dimensionality. This piece is highly personal. I used images from my own life this year capturing little moments of fun in the midst of a growing season. In tandem with other more traditional collage elements I used glitter and pearls to add a little sparkle, representing how I like to live my life, with an added element of sparkle or surprise.

A great joy in life that mimics artistic making is the progression made through process and how the destination is not the ultimate. The process (or journey) is the focus of each of our lives and each of my pieces.





Out of Sight Out of Mind

Layers are not only seen visually within this piece but are also indicative of our lives as well. Each person is unique and there is value in every human life, which was the intended concept for this piece. The unique value within each human life is translated through the idea of fingerprints and toe prints alike.

The base layer of this piece is a screen printed floral motif symbolizing growth. Each repeat was then manipulated by folding the fabric in different manners to create more textural elements and variation to further reinforce the idea of individuality. Layered on top of each repeat are toe prints and fingerprints used to create a pattern in and of themselves, but to directly tie in the idea of the unique nature of each person. The final layer within this piece are the enlarged fingerprint motifs completed in three-dimensional glitter which detail further the beauty that is each individual.

This piece jump started my entire collection of senior works focused on growth, the individual, and process and progress over perfection.





Present Ponderings

Present Ponderings is a daily practice series focused on treasuring the present moments and processing whatever life is throwing my way.

The process for each page involved collecting imagery, generally from vintage National Geographic magazines and creating a base through collage. Paint, found objects, glitter, and other elements were then layered on top to create a more visually interesting composition. The final element added to the page was a handwritten poem; each poem focuses on an event from my own life or something that I was processing. Although not every page includes every element, the overall use of cool hues and consistent mark making helps to form a visually cohesive collection of daily collages detailing a season of life.

Although this series of daily practices has been completed, this is one area within my practice that I hope to continue. I will continue to write poetry as well as collage, but I also would like to explore how to further my own practice and daily studies.







Verdure

Integrating function with fine art, this piece combines the utilitarian need of diffusing sound with a large-scale installation work. This piece was commissioned by a doctor's office in Southlake, Texas in need of an art piece that diffused the sound within a hallway, was easily cleanable, and added visual intrigue to a long hallway.

The motifs in this piece utilize human finger and toe prints to accentuate the emphasis of caring for each unique individual that comes into the office. The color palette employed is cool colors to play to the psychological phenomenon of calming colors to add to the tranquil and neutral design of the office space. The abstract nature of this piece allows for the observer to draw their own conclusion and to attach meaning to whichever areas resonate with them most fully.

The wooden elements are what allows for sound to bounce off of the piece and therefore diffuse sound. The varied angles and direction of the wood allow for sound to bounce and die as well as add visual interest and physical texture. The directional lines of the wood help to add sight lines through the piece. Each individual panel can stand alone as its own composition, but when all six panels are arranged in sequence, they allow the viewer to see a broader picture that moves their eye in a counter-clockwise circle around the panels. This work was largely inspired by the abstract expressionist movement of the 20th century, as well as, the artist exploring their own desire for experimental mark making through the use of unconventional art materials.





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Jamboree

Interaction and mark making are the core themes explored within this piece. Studies show that the more one engages with art at a young age the more they relate to and are able to explore their own creativity in their youth and later in life.

The background of this piece was created through allowing guests at an art show to interact with their own exploration of mark making before observing artists' works. Raw canvas was laid on the ground and was altered using three warm hues of milk paint (a completely non-toxic paint to allow for safe application of pigment, which allowed even young children to participate). Unconventional mark making tools (whiffle balls, bubble wrap, sponges, and straws) were available for use while encouraging participants to use their own hands and feet to create whatever marks or imagery they fancied.

At the conclusion of the art show, the initial application of pigment was complete. Marks made by participants were then unified by using the same pigments. Contrast is found in the application of paint varying in hues and texture. The interaction of human movement and allowing the viewer to engage with art in a more meaningful way help to contribute to the overall value of the piece.





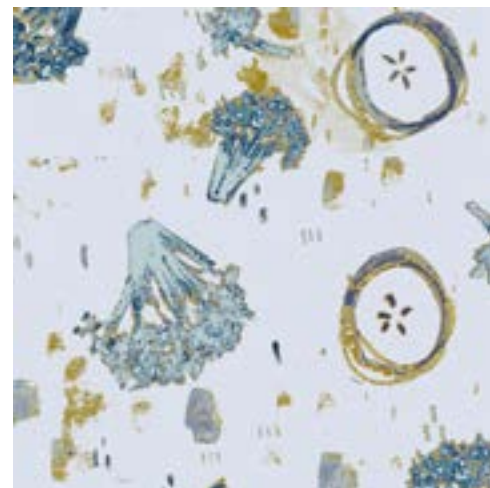
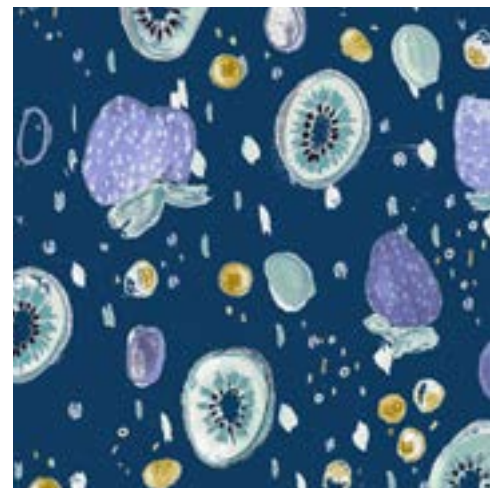


Clementine

The focus of these baby onesies is the idea of summertime represented through citrus. Each onesie was hand screen printed from a pattern developed through hand drawn motifs then exposed onto a screen. Each color was hand mixed to create a range of citrus inspired hues.









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Erin Grace

Experimentation is the ultimate avenue for creative freedom. Experimentation allows for creation of work that freely expresses my point of view. With no boundaries, I am able to dive into concepts of personal exploration in a return to nostalgic moments gleaning inspiration from my childhood growing up in Texas. Fiber art allows me to combine form with function and create utilitarian objects as well as fine art pieces. The connection between the mind, the eyes, and the body is an important correlation to remember for me when producing pieces. When designing I tend to create in a manner that involves a very physical process such as finger or toe painting, tufting, and stirring the pot for hours when dyeing. Not only do our eyes see our work, but we should also feel in our soul on some level the work created. As I think through what I'm seeing and feeling whether tactilely or emotionally, I want the viewer to confront my pieces in an individualized manner and relate their own personal experience to my work. I am greatly inspired by modern abstraction as well as learning new techniques and pushing the boundaries of how to create, taking traditional techniques and giving them a little twist.

