

Emma Welty
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Artist Statement:

The lace technique that I draw and sculpt with is named janyak, also known as Armenian needlelace. It is my ancestral craft that I was forced to learn through online sources as it was lost between generations.

Needlelace collage, “Scent of Apricots” is a woven ribbon basket of needlelace fruit positioned on a piece of red wool cloth that was found in abandoned progress on a discarded loom that I adopted and restored to working order. The title refers to a work by Armenian American artist and genocide survivor, Arshile Gorky. While he was most famous for a portrait of himself with his mother, who he tragically lost in the genocide, he also had a mid career period of making still lifes of fruit, an poignant phase of abundance despite extreme losses.

“Low,” is a piece from a body of work titled “Hand wash, lay flat” which uses text from laundry labels to explore the tender care for textiles as an act of care towards garment workers. This piece is a large lace medallion with the word LOW woven into the lace cloth with carpet pile knots, adorned with hanging lace and poms.

Biography:

Emma Welty is a textile artist and educator with a BFA from MassArt in Fibers and Art History and an MFA/MA in Visual Art and Art History at Purchase College. Her work utilizes ancestral traditions of Armenian carpet and needlelace to explore economies of labor, notions of “heirloom” and cultural transmissions within a digital diaspora.

Welty completed residencies Newport Art Museum, the Museum of Arts and Design, and the Woodbury Public Library in CT. Welty’s recent solo shows include Heirloom Gallery in Brooklyn; Miss Porter’s School in Farmington, CT; and a forthcoming exhibit at Studio Hill in Woodbury, CT.

Exhibitions:

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| 2023 | <i>Lace and Loom: New Works by Emma Welty</i> (solo), Heirloom Gallery, Brooklyn, NY. |
| 2023 | <i>Kim, Dear: An Open Letter to Kim Kardashian</i> , Studio Hill, Woodbury, CT |
| 2023 | <i>Social Fabric: Textile Art and Contemporary Issues</i> , Newport Art Museum, RI. |
| 2023 | <i>Free JSTOR</i> , Gilbert Gallery, Miss Porter’s School, Farmington, CT. |
| 2022 | <i>Delivery Systems</i> , Gross Gallery, University of Arizona, Tuscon, AZ. |