

Tangled Threads

Modern and Contemporary Fiber Art

Tangled Threads

Turner Contemporary puts making and materiality center stage in a new exhibition. Entangled: Threads & Making is a major exhibition of sculpture, installation, tapestry, textiles and jewelry from the early 20th century to the present day. It features over 40 international female artists who expand the possibilities of knitting and embroidery, weaving, sewing, and wood carving, often incorporating unexpected materials such as plants, clothing, hair and bird quills.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gCW5QG59fdc>

Hannah Ryggen (1894-1970)

Hannah Ryggen, born Hannah Jönsson, was a Swedish-born Norwegian textile artist. Self-trained, she worked on a standing loom constructed by her husband, the painter Hans Ryggen. She lived on a farm on a Norwegian Fjord and dyed her yarn with local plants.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TLyxBzDq0og>







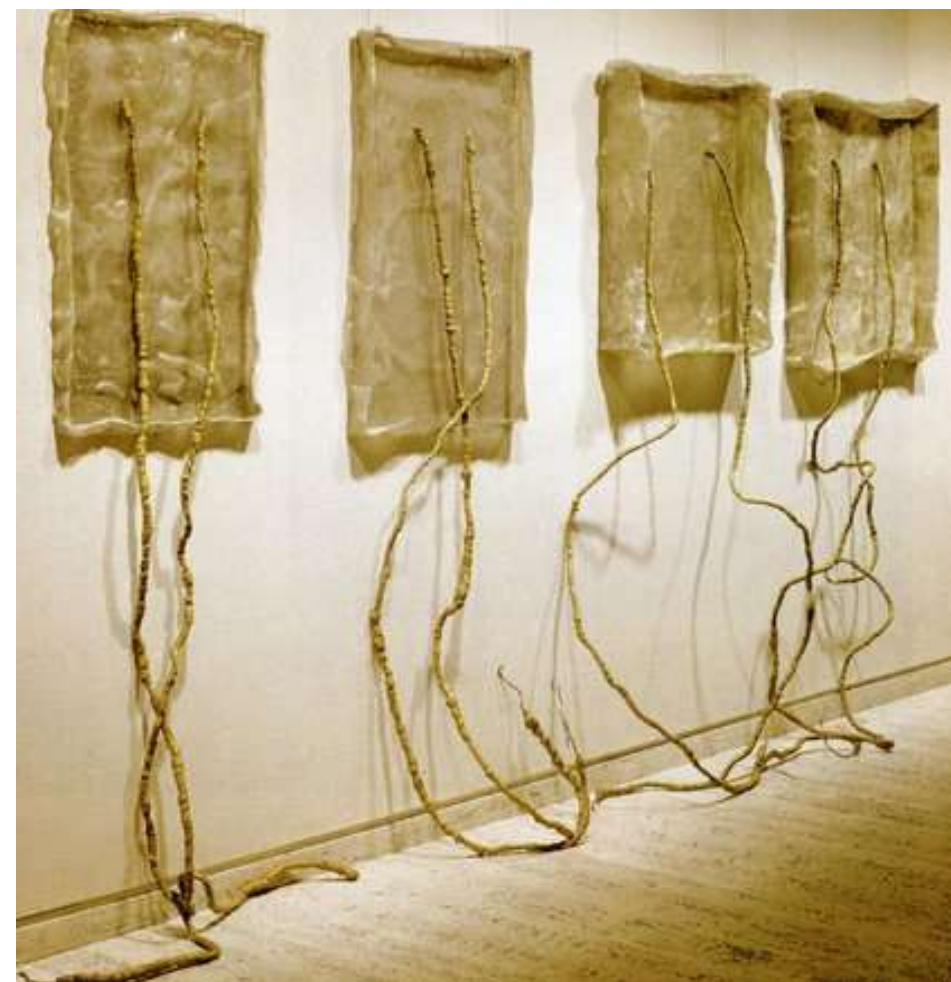


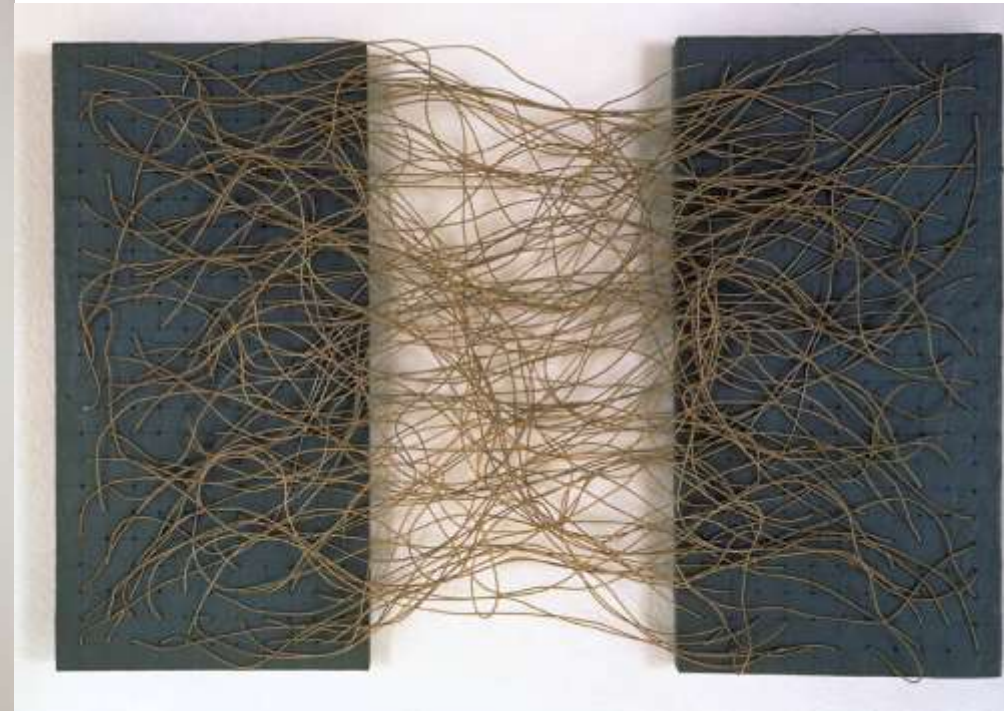
Eva Hesse (1936-1966)

Eva Hesse was a German-born American sculptor known for her pioneering work in materials such as latex, fiberglass, and plastics. She is one of the artists who ushered in the postminimal art movement in the 1960s.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1gkIl6pxr4&t=196s>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=THgR1gV1Ngg>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HG65ymJ3xo0&t=323s>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ZqO8ECDrU>



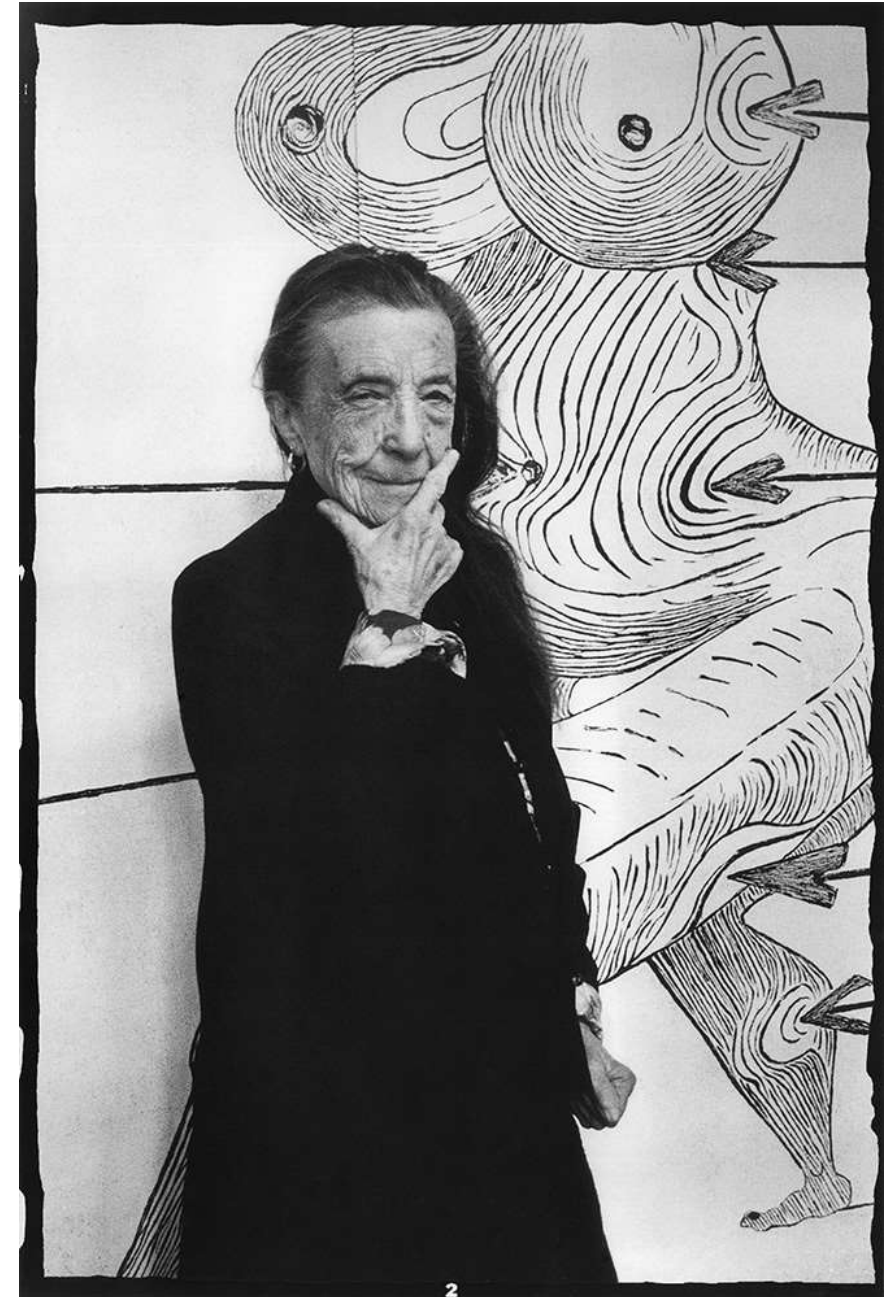




Louise Bourgeois (1911-2010)

A recognized leader in twentieth-century sculpture, [Louise Bourgeois](#) was greatly influenced by the influx of European Surrealist artists who immigrated to the United States after World War II. Her early sculpture was composed of groupings of abstract and organic shapes, often carved from wood. By the 1960s, she began to execute her work in rubber, bronze, and stone, and the pieces themselves became larger and more referential to what has become the dominant theme of her work: her childhood. She has famously stated, "My childhood has never lost its magic, it has never lost its mystery, and it has never lost its drama."

- <https://art21.org/watch/art-in-the-twenty-first-century/s1/louise-bourgeois-in-identity-segment/>
- <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/louise-bourgeois-2351/art-louise-bourgeois>



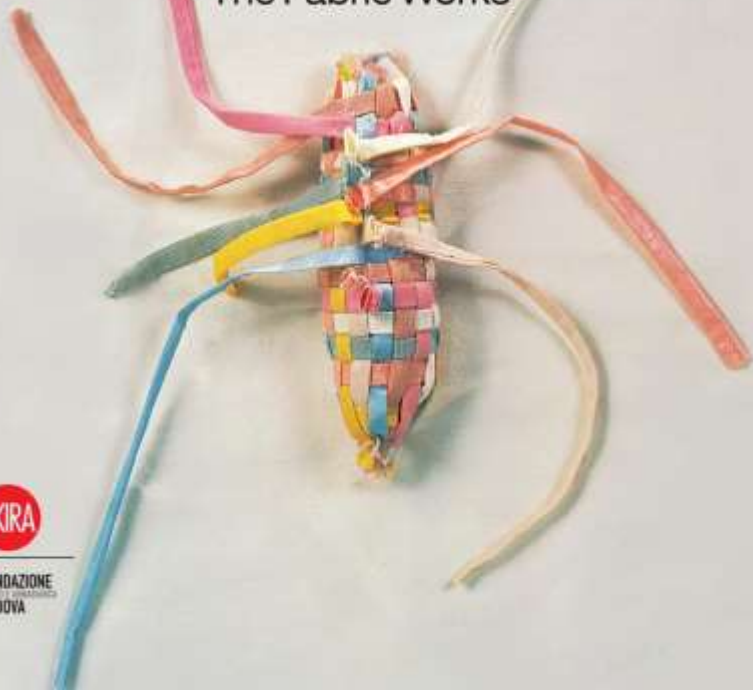




Germano Celant

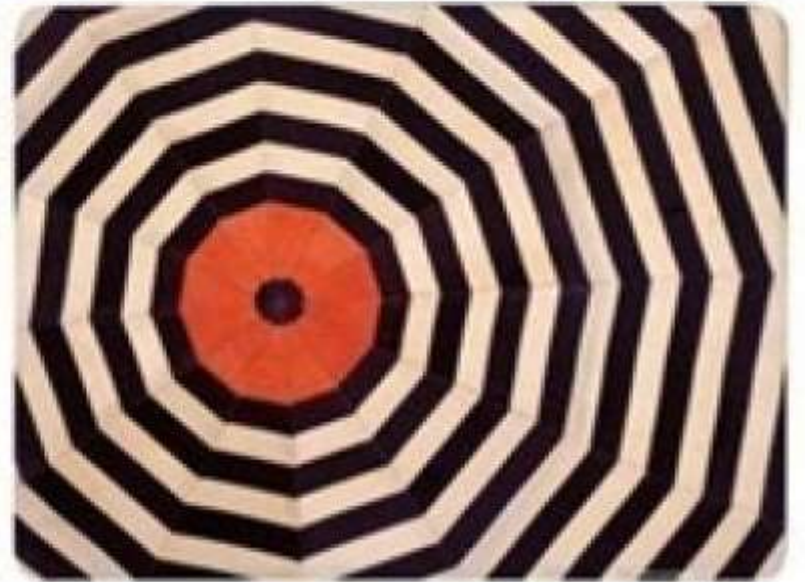
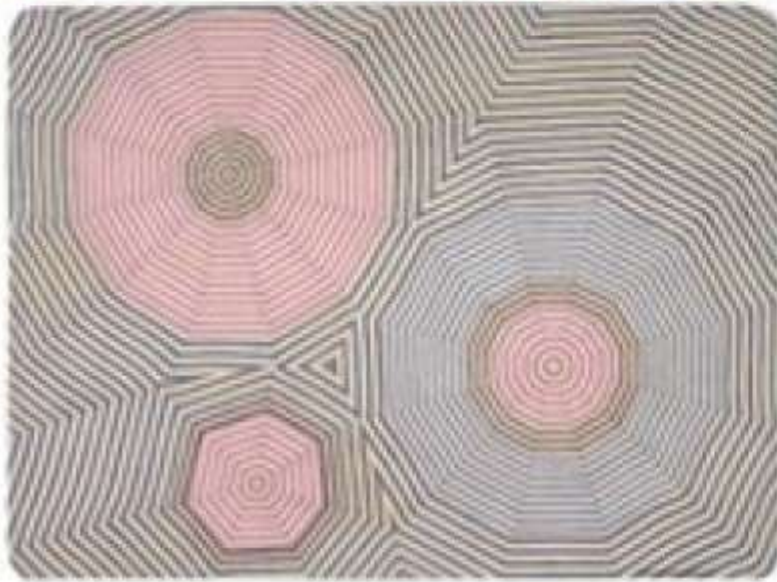
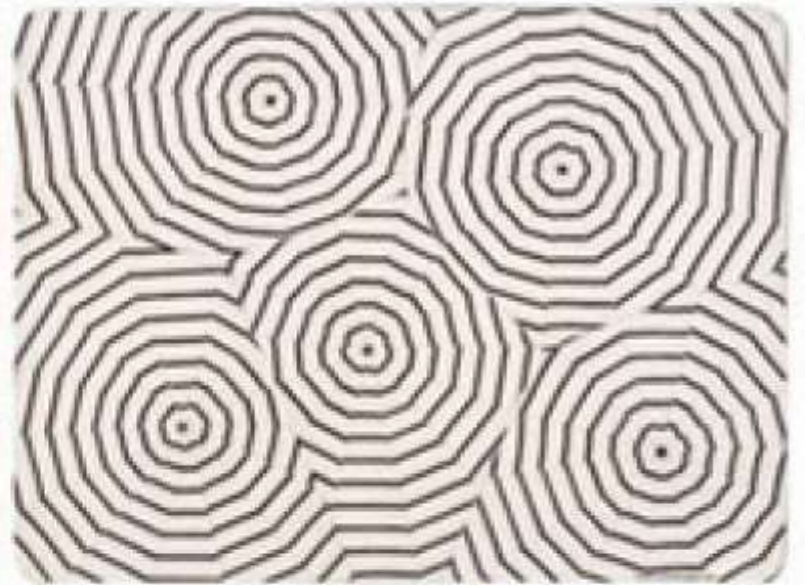
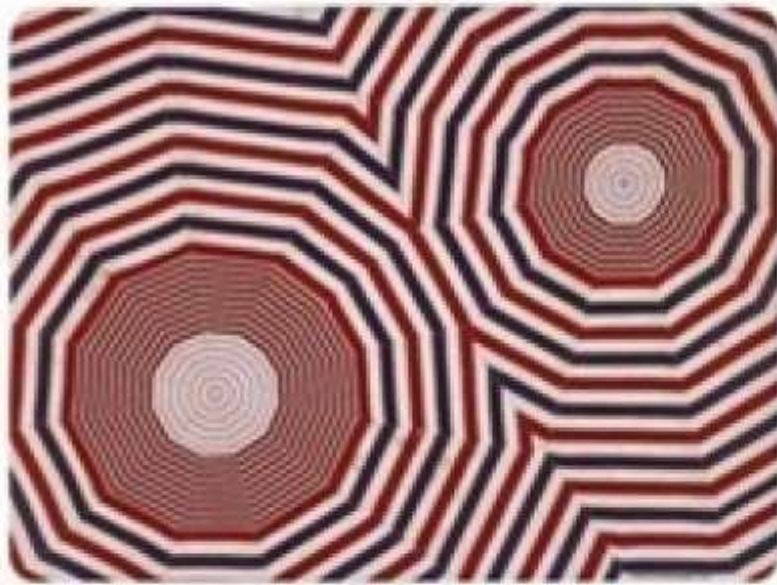
Louise Bourgeois

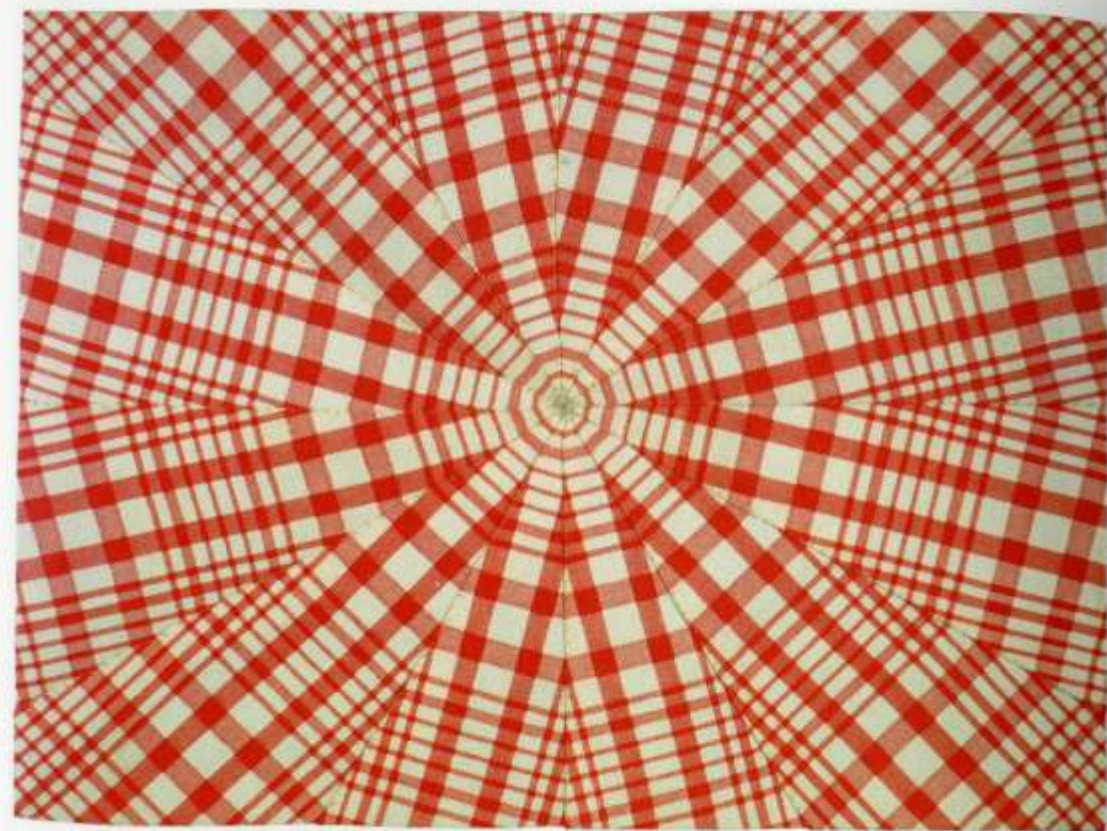
The Fabric Works

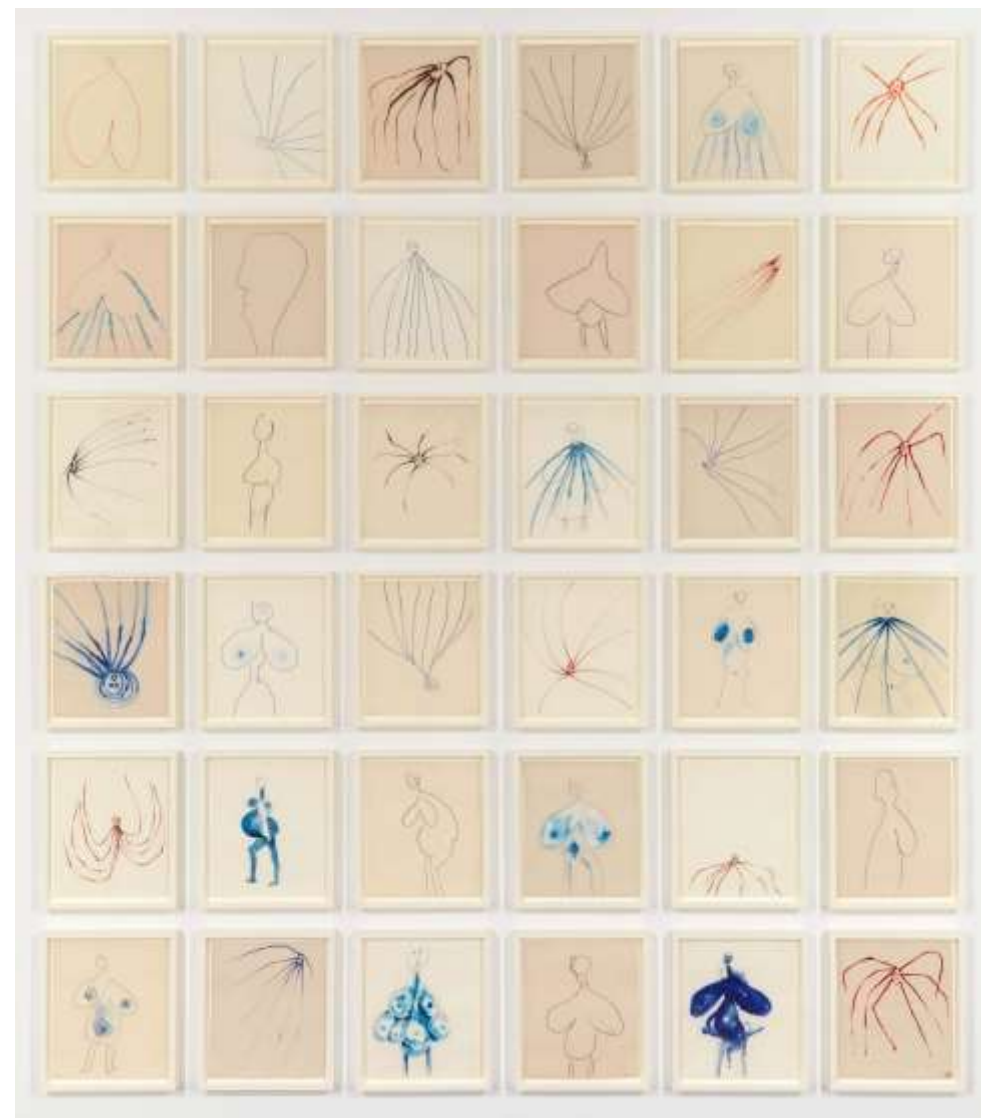
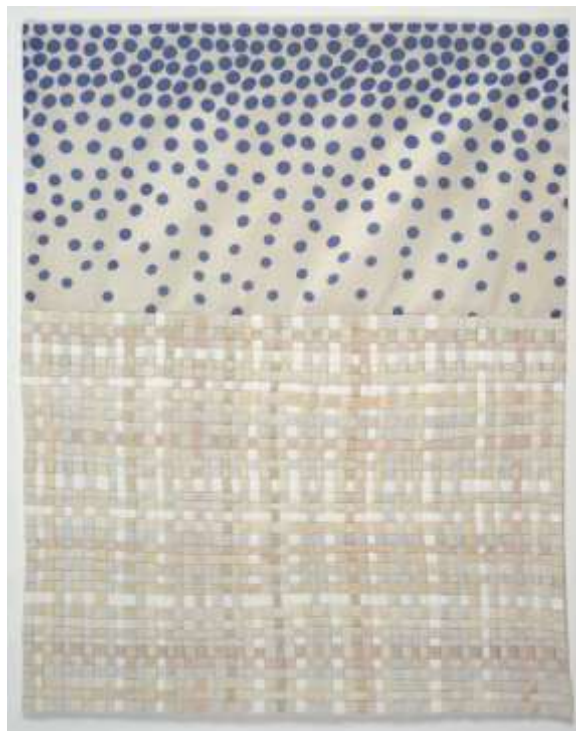


SKIRA

FONDAZIONE
VEDOVA







Sheila Hicks

Sheila Hicks is an American artist. She is known for her innovative and experimental weavings and sculptural textile art that incorporate distinctive colors, natural materials, and personal narratives. Since the 1964, she lives and works in Paris, France.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C9PfcC1r52Y>
- <https://www.moma.org/artists/2631>
(good)





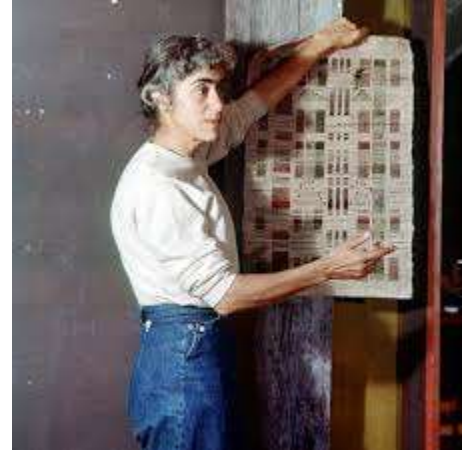






Trude Guermonprez (1910-1976)

Trude Guermonprez, born Gertrud Emilie Jalowetz, was a German-born American textile artist, designer and educator, known for her tapestry landscapes.



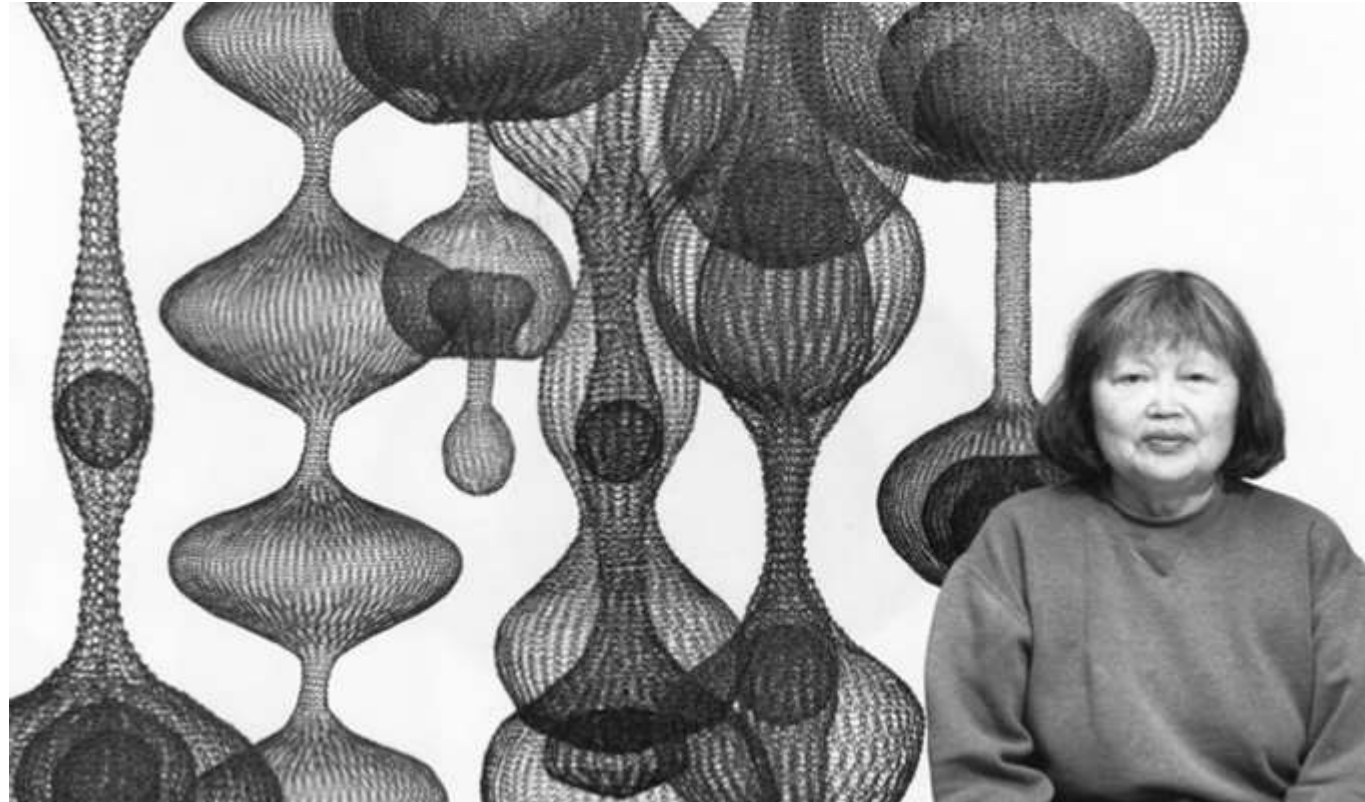


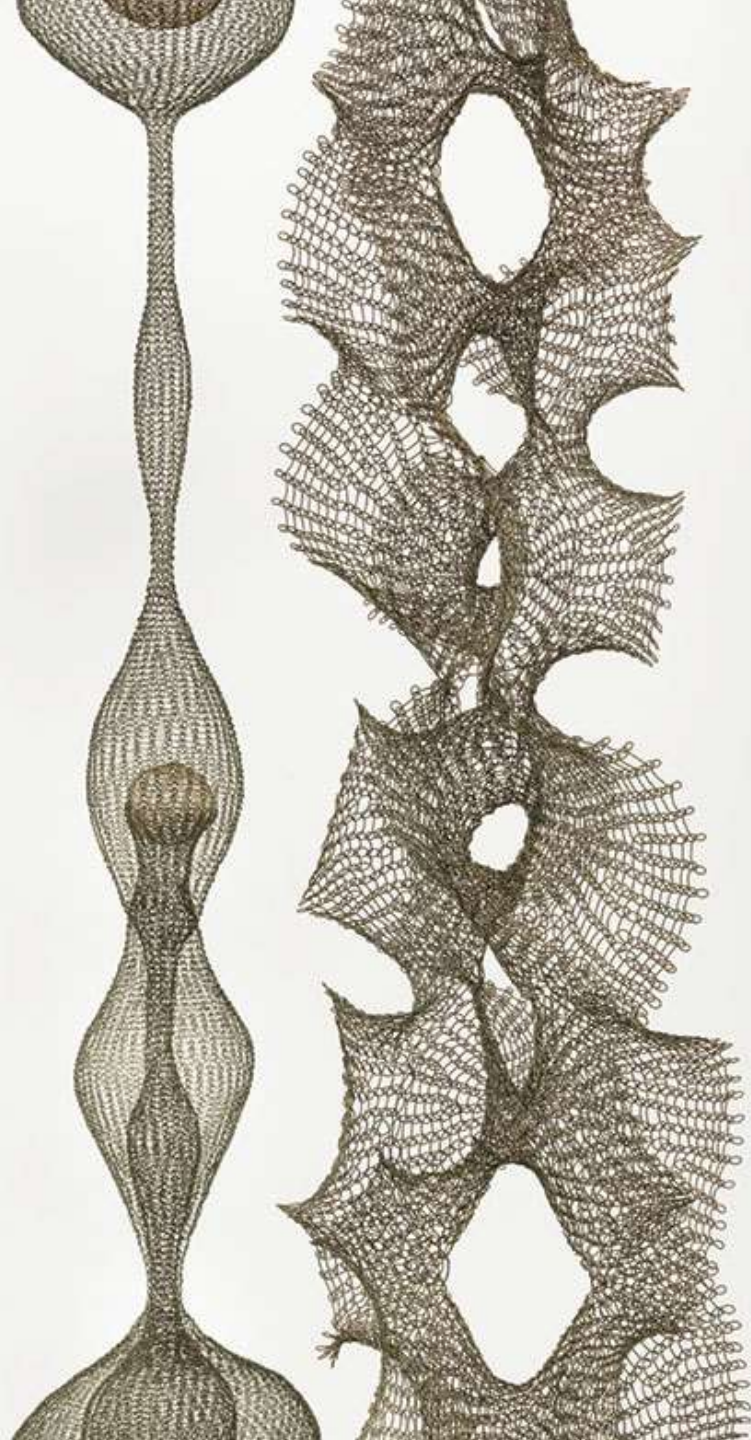


Ruth Asawa (1926-2013)

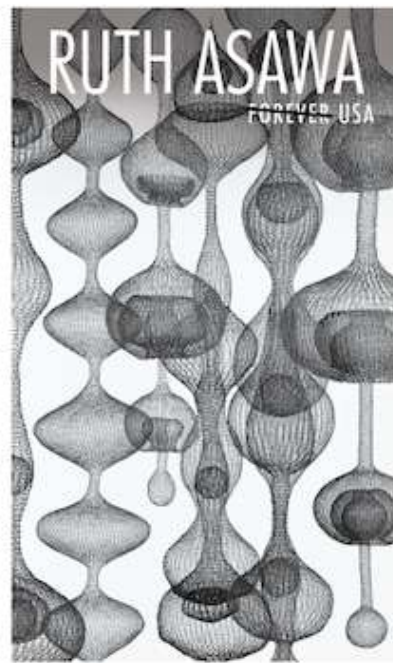
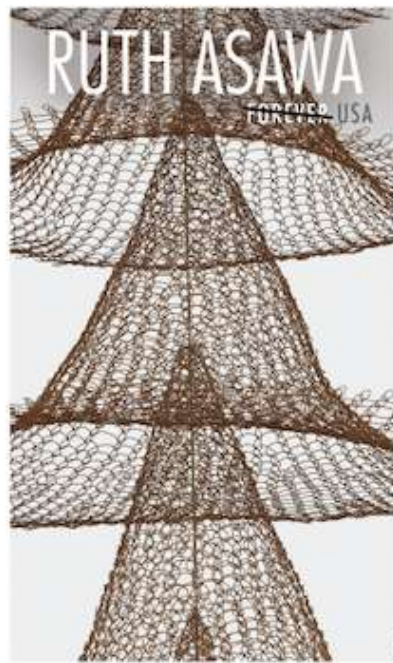
Ruth Aiko Asawa was an American sculptor. Her work is in the collections of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pv4WGBgVZ-c>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krZkKY4HmU8>







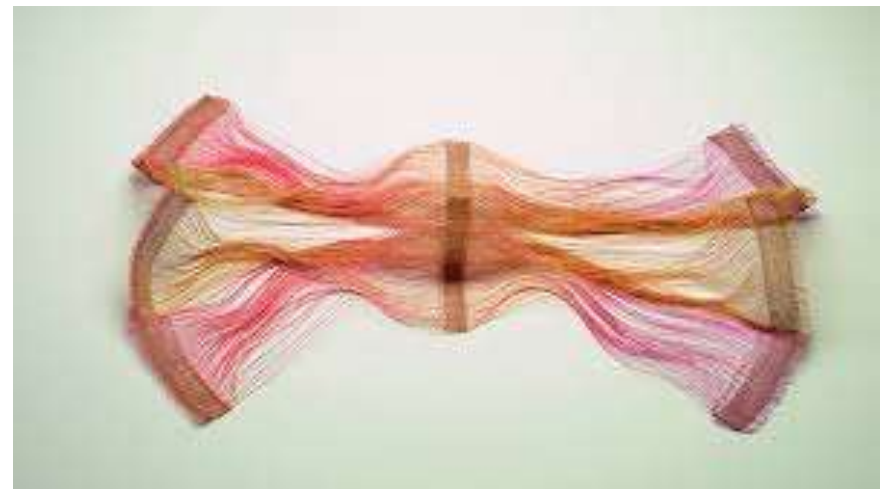


Kay Sekimachi

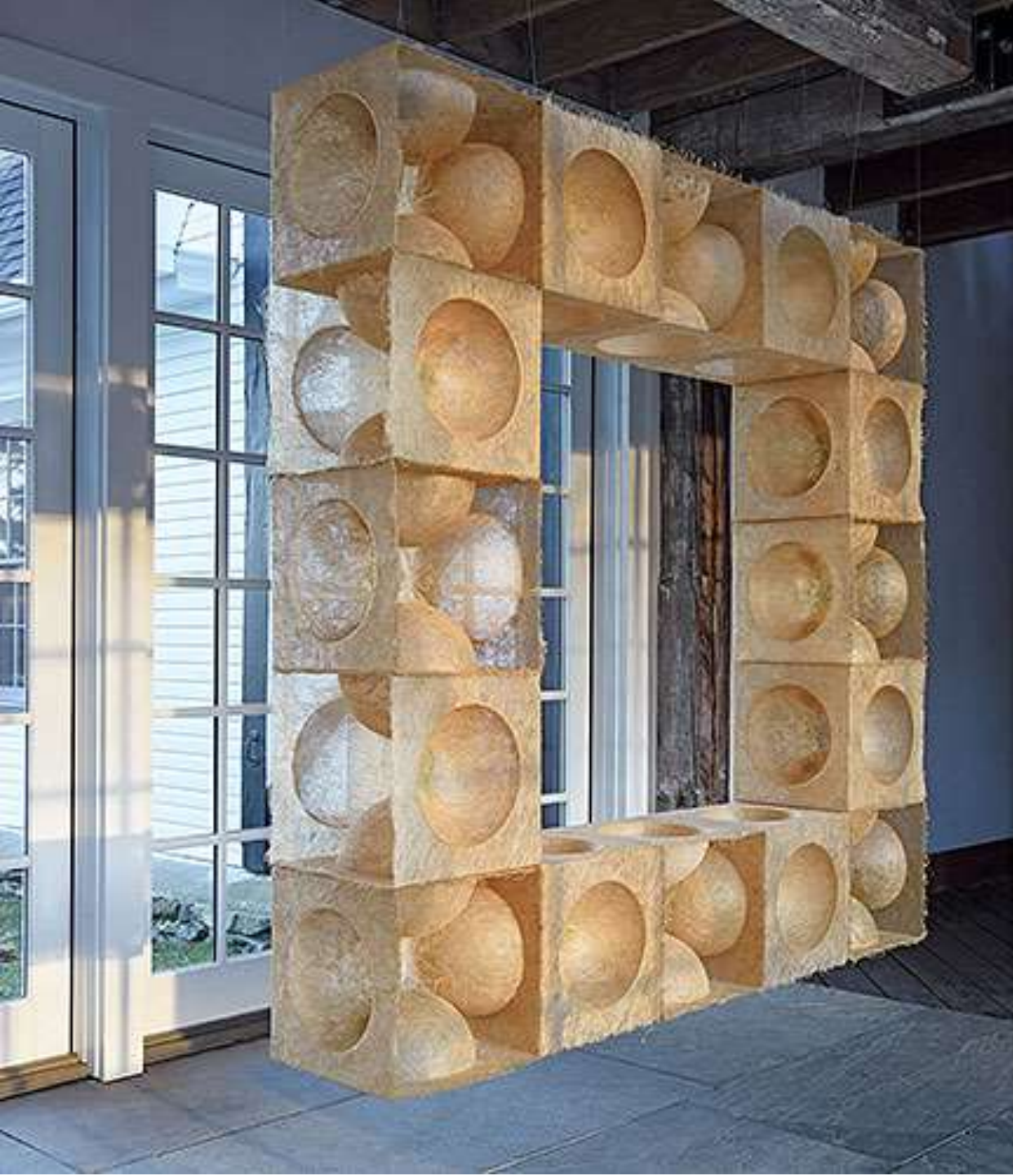
Kay Sekimachi is an American fiber artist and weaver, best known for her three-dimensional woven monofilament hangings as well as her intricate baskets and bowls.

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vDoPSk_GOR8 (8 mins)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=88x-hSjiiP8> (11 mins)







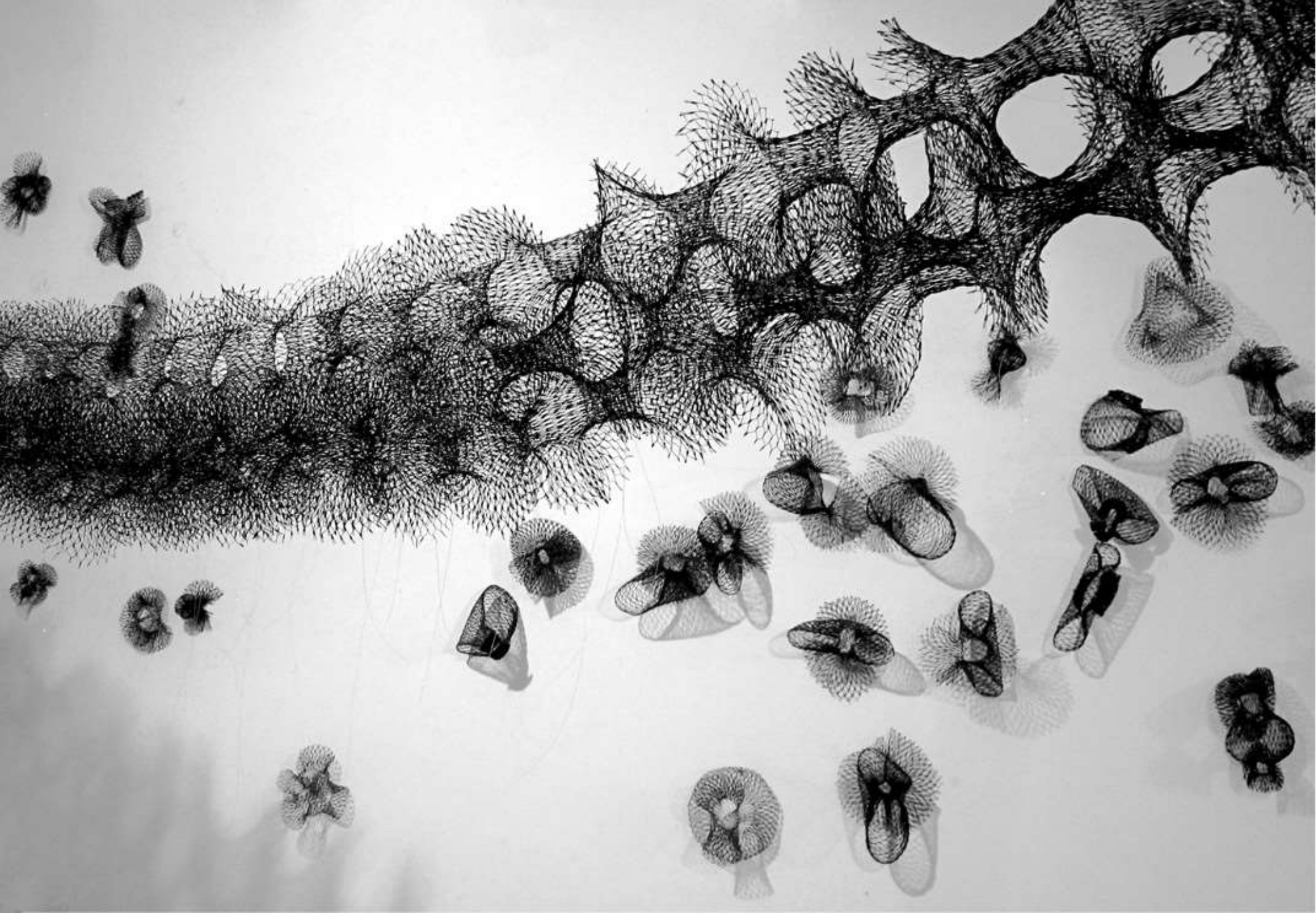


Caroline Cox

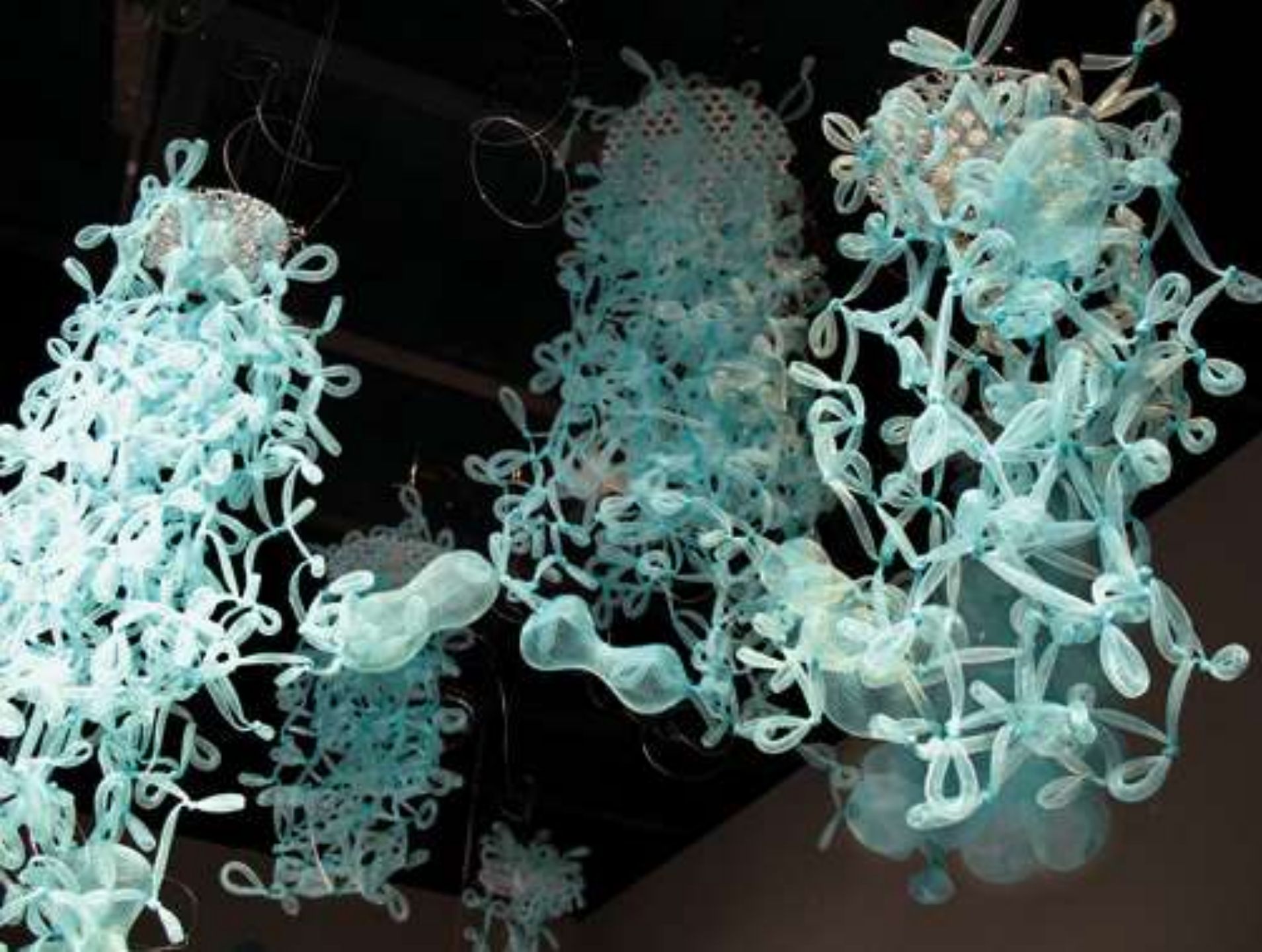
Caroline Cox stands in her studio, surrounded by microbes and micro-universes hanging by monofilaments from the ceiling or pinned to the wall. Some are white but most are black. They are made out of the mesh packaging that envelopes fruits and vegetables in the supermarket, as if snagging them in a net. The floor is scattered with pink tubing and aquamarine blooms of stitched and shaped horsehair, a finely woven fabric commonly used in millinery shops. The pieces on the floor, on filaments, pinned to the wall, encompass a body of work she calls *Swerve*. The largest piece diagonally spans the length of the room, bowed slightly downward like a loose clothesline. It is black and tubular, flared and squeezed and riddled with holes. If you look carefully you can see that it is sectioned like a row of vertebrae. Behind it, hand-size clumps of the netlike vegetable mesh, some exploding outward, others bending inward, cling to the wall like black honeybees. The curves and cylinders of the mesh, which you can look at and into, toss the planar insistence of the netting's grid into three dimensions, like a computer model of gravitational warp; the shadows they cast fuse the ensemble into contrapuntal rhythms of the solid and the ephemeral. Like Stan Brakhage's hand painted films, in which the artist's actions upon an object are transformed into unaccountable visions via the intervention of light, Caroline Cox's mediation of form, surface, color and shadow signal not merely an object in space but a graphic display of light absorbed, bent, reflected and obscured. In another wall piece, which she retrieves from behind a partition and unwraps from its protective packaging, blue swirls of monofilament spin out in loopy eruptions, unfurling as an endless line endlessly backtracking, a capsule view of infinity. The pink tubing on the floor moves in similar patterns but feels more contained, bristling with circular

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Z4tO8QtwfY>











Xenobia Bailey

Xenobia Bailey is an American fine artist, designer, Supernaturalist, cultural activist and fiber artist best known for her eclectic crochet African-inspired hats and her large scale crochet pieces and mandalas. She has said that her specialty is crochet and needlecraft.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d1Q9wAoCdCk>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EvNcswupG18>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eNXExa3hPs8&t=66s>









Michelle Lougee

Lougee, who teaches sculpture at the [Lesley University College of Art + Design](#), collects post-consumer plastic bags from friends, students and art lovers and uses them to create plarn (a mashup of the words plastic and yarn), which she then crochets into sculptures inspired by nature. For her latest exhibit, "[Timber!,](#)" at the [Boston Sculptors Gallery](#), Lougee used images of microscopic seeds as her jumping off point, using bags the same color as the peculiar and exotic organisms on which they are based.

- <https://lesley.edu/news/inspired-by-an-ocean-of-trash>

Neri Oxman

Neri Oxman is an American–Israeli designer and professor at the MIT Media Lab, where she leads the Mediated Matter research group. She is known for art and architecture that combine design, biology, computing, and materials engineering.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aaTYjESABAI>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUVv4wtYMPE> (silk worms)









Inger Johanne Rasmussen

Inger Johanne Rasmussen creates large-scale textile intarsia with woollen cloth, which she dyes, cuts and stitches by hand. “I was interested in textile crafts from a very early age, learning knitting and sewing from my mother. I have been studying and working with art and textiles full time since the age of 16.” She learned decorative drawing and weaving in high school, then at the Bergen art school (SHKD) and in Stockholm (Konstfack). Her inspirations include textiles from all around the world, old patterns, folk art, early Renaissance paintings, optical illusions, traditional embroidery, children’s drawings and needlework samplers.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O8VcdQDMEPY>















Aiko Tezuka

The works of Japanese artist Aiko Tezuka are beautiful mutilations. Her fastidiously conceived swathes of fabric are intricately spun, measured, then deliberately cut to shreds, in a quirky allusion to the three mythological Fates of Greek mythology. But while the shear-wielding Atropos snipped the threads of life, Tezuka incises the warp and weft, altering the essential composition and structure.

Tezuka's "Certainty/Entropy" at Hermès's Third Floor gallery is a site-specific exhibition of four works rooted in the foundation—and transformation—of Singaporean heritage. The artist researched textiles at local museums and identified specific pieces that embodied Singapore's historical, cultural and aesthetic elements. These fabrics were reproduced and adapted to Tezuka's specifications, which involve discreetly injecting the cloth with contemporary generic symbolism—not as superficial embroideries, but as integral, interwoven elements. These included familiar imagery such as radiation hazard signs, DNA helices, credit card logos and recycling marks.

- <https://vimeo.com/360817349>











Sonia Gomes

Sonia Gomes (b. 1948, Caetanópolis, Brazil) began her art career mid-life, developing a practice of sewing and tying together found and gifted objects and textiles exploring notions of memory and identity. Often incorporating wire into her constructions, Gomes produces multi-dimensional sculptural works that hang from the ceiling, reach out from the walls, or rest on the ground. This act of binding remnants of disparate cultures and materials is deeply rooted in Gomes's own story—she says, "My work is Black, it is feminine, and it is marginal. I am a rebel. I never worried about masking or stifling anything that might or might not fit standards of what is called art. I always sought nonconformity with things that are established. I had to overcome a lot of obstacles because I'm Black, because I was too old to be considered one of Brazilian art's young talents. ... My work is Brazilian."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3rcIJlwxsXk> (2 mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eRrvXbxK4Bc> (11 mins)









CAROLINE ACHAINTRE

Caroline Achaintre is a mixed media artist living and working in London. Her work draws heavily on Primitivism and Expressionism.

- <https://www.dlwp.com/exhibition/caroline-achaintre/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=asj1qJOsQI>







Shoplifter/ Hrafnhildur Arnardóttir



Shoplifter / Hrafnhildur Arnardóttir is one of Iceland's leading contemporary artists, based in New York. Working with both synthetic and natural hair, her sculptures, wall murals and site-specific installations explore themes of vanity, self-image, fashion, beauty and popular myth. For Shoplifter hair is the ultimate thread that grows from our body. Hair is an original, creative fiber, a way for people to distinguish themselves as individuals, and often an art form. Humor plays a large role in her life and work, sometimes subtly, but at other times taking over.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TRDonFgrh6w>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MXYFTEw3npl>







Kashif Nadim Chaudry

[Kashif Nadim Chaudry](#) is a Nottingham born artist, of Punjabi origin, living and working in the East Midlands. He studied Textiles at Goldsmiths College, London, graduating in 2005, and continues to develop his textile orientated art practice.

A family heritage in tailoring has been very influential for his work and has focused his creativity around the importance of materiality and craftsmanship. The heart of Nadim's practice lies with the working, shaping, and molding of physical 'stuff'.

Negotiating his sexuality as a gay man within different cultural and religious spheres has been a fertile ground from which his practice has taken root and continuously draws inspiration. This 'negotiation' has often translated literally into physical space; a question of how you choose to position yourself in the world. In relation, it is increasingly the sculptural and three dimensional possibilities within his work that address the issues of space and position, which fascinate him most.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAbegxUfUnM> (3 graces--
Kashif Nadim collaborative project—7 mins)











Assignment Suggestions...

- Create a textural work using visual (pattern and line) and/or physical texture (fibers, fabric, organic or synthetic materials).
- Present an artwork to the class that people can vote on for the collaborative piece.