

Artist Info

Margaret Timbrell

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Artist Bio

Margaret Timbrell was born in Brazil, raised in San Francisco and graduated from NYU with a Bachelors degree in Studio Art. In San Francisco she has exhibited at SOEX, Great Highway Gallery, Jennifer Perlmutter, Incline Gallery. In New York her work has shown at Family Business in NY, Superior Gallery in the LES, and Bronfman Center. Her work has appeared in the SF Examiner, LA Times, Bust Magazine, Blouin Art Info. In 2012 she was selected as a Heart Artist for the Heroes & Hearts annual fundraiser benefiting SF General. In 2015, 2016 she was one of the artists showcased at the StARTup Fair San Francisco. She will be participating again in 2017. Starting August 2016 Margaret is studio artist at Root Division.

Artist Statement

I am an artist who moves between mediums. I graduated from NYU in 2001 with a degree in Studio Art. While there I studied painting and photography. For years I focused primarily on photography. I loved working in the dark room. However, after a very bad accident I could no longer do this. So I returned to painting, which could be done in the comfort of my apartment. When painting, I focus on color. I spend a lot of time mixing pigments, applying layers, letting myself become absorbed in the work. I love the bright and vibrant. It became a type of therapy for me.

Around that same time I began needlepointing with regularity. I soon began stitching my own designs. I initially dove into a series of needlepoints that were inspired by the idea of "art that matches the sofa". I quite literally needlepointed abstract art identical to my paintings onto canvas mesh, then turned the pieces into pillows that go with the sofa, shifting the art from the wall to the sofa.

Needlework is a bit of a rabbit hole. The different patterns mean different things, follow different rules. So I set about breaking the model while experimenting within the various traditional styles like Bargello. Though, I do think the work can be appreciated on a visual level even without the historical context.

I especially enjoy the relationship almost everyone has to needlework- an Aunt or Mother or Grandmother who stitched- and the joy with which people share these memories. It's an interesting, mostly female, history. But needlework also has some very current ties to technology. The binary code in computer programming was first developed for the punch cards used in knitting/weaving machines. Needlework and textiles occupies an odd world somewhere between craft and art, human and technology.

I'm also inspired by pop culture, both low brow and high brow. I like to combine this very traditional craft with referential phrases and autocorrect errors to bring together these different worlds and mediums. I've submitted for your consideration a couple of my text pieces that showcase both my technical skill and draw in the viewer with the use of language.