

I have more ideas than I know what to do with. The connections ignited over a broad expanse of concepts, theories and experiences sporadically pop into my mind. The fractals of possibilities are endless.

One of the ways I slow the pace of my ideation is through creating with my hands. It's something I've done for as long as I can remember. Though the mediums have evolved overtime, I find myself continually drawn back to fibre arts.

The world of textiles is a familiar place, having been brought up among highly skilled seamstresses, quilters, and a lineage of generally made-by-hand sort of folks. It is no surprise that I too would explore this landscape of handcrafts and thread.

What started with embroidery in my earlier years transitioned to cross stitch as a teenager. Later on in my twenties I picked up knitting, which provided a different sense of functionality and purpose with its wearability and style elements.

At the end of 2020, I felt the nudge to pick up needlework again, though had not settled on the format. New inspiration hit only a few months later as I deepened my study of Human Design, a system which outlines the unique blueprint of your individual energy.

This archetypal lens has changed the way I see my Self; the conditions I unconsciously live by, my creative gifts/desires, and the wonderful expanse of potential that lives within each of us.



In translating this energetic imprint onto cloth, I began to see Backstitching in a new light. Traditionally, this type of stitch is used in cross stitching to outline or bold different aspects of the pattern to create depth in a piece.

By isolating this component, abstract creation began to emerge, quite a change from conventional counted cross stitch. Through various sources of stitch patterns, colour palettes, and geometric pattern, I bring to you my discovery of repeating motifs, layered depth and bright expression.

I hope you enjoy these pieces as much as I enjoyed creating them!

Marlee Cater