Tension and Protection

Textile work by Suzannah Schreckhise

December 2, 2021 - March 5, 2022

ASC
ASC701.org
The Arts & Science Center for Southeast Arkansas

Artist Statement: Suzannah Schreckhise

In times of isolation, a sense of comfort and place feel especially important; and yet, during these times, tension is extremely high. For me, textile art has become the perfect visual representation of the strangeness and tension of this time, and as such, I have brought two of my artwork series together to give voice to this very tension: what it looks like, what it feels like, and how it helps push us to change. These series are *Breath,* masks made of recycled fabric, and my ongoing series of crocheted works layered over paintings.

The motif of tension is always present in the medium of crochet, where each stitch depends on two opposing forces: the repeated creation and dissolution of tension in the yarn. As I crochet, I create an object that is both tightly connected and relaxed, thus creating works that express tension both literally and metaphorically. In this way, I use the physicality of the materials and the form to represent the contemporary historic moment, in which stress marks our every move, and yet relaxation is everything. As an artist who uses textiles to subvert domestic forms, I often make work that assigns abstract marks and gestures to apparently practical forms. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, I have made several usable masks out of fabrics with personal history, therefore bringing together materiality, texture, and color to evoke specific times and places. This also fosters a sense of timelessness and togetherness in the midst of isolation, shifting a practical object into something fresh and meaningful: artwork that speaks both to the value of tension and the relief when we dissolve into the soft material it can help create.

Untitled, Grey silk dupioni drapery, vintage fabric, silk wool-blend yarn, thread, silk cord, metal tips, hand-sewn embroidery, folded origami butterflies, crochet, 2020

Exhibition List

Untitled
Vintage fabric, silk wool blend yarn, silk cord, metal tips, hand-sewn embroidery, folded origami butterflies, crochet, lined in grey silk dupioni drapery
2020

Untitled
Metallic grey dress, black silk nightgown, silk cord and metal tips, hand-quilted and layered cut fabric, lined in grey silk dupioni drapery
2020

Untitled
Mohair silk yarn, grey silk dupioni drapery, crochet layered over hand-sewn mask
2020

Untitled
Vintage fabric, vintage rayon and cotton yarn, elastic cord with metal tips, crochet layered over hand-sewn mask
2020

Untitled
Silk thread, elastic cord with selinite crystal, hand-sewn with embroidery and crochet, lined with dupioni silk
2020

Untitled
Vintage fabric, mohair silk yarn, bubble elastic, Crochet layered over hand-sewn mask with embroidery
2020

Untitled
Crochet silk yarn, lined with silk dupioni drapery
2020

Untitled
Cotton pillowcase, silk cord and crystal, metal tips
2020

Untitled
Metallic linen dress, acrylic cord with plastic stop and metal lock, Lozenge American smocking pattern
2020

Untitled
Polyblend 90's skirt with silk cord and plastic cord stops, Canadian smocking, lined with silk dupioni drapery
2020

Untitled
Vintage fabric, metallic thread, elastic cord with plastic stop and locks, vintage rayon cotton blend yarn, silk dupioni drapery, crochet layered over hand-sewn mask, lined with black linen nightgown
2020

Untitled
Vintage fabric, silk scrap/hemmed pant, elastic cord with plastic stop and metal lock, black linen nightgown, embroidery, origami, hand-sewing
2020

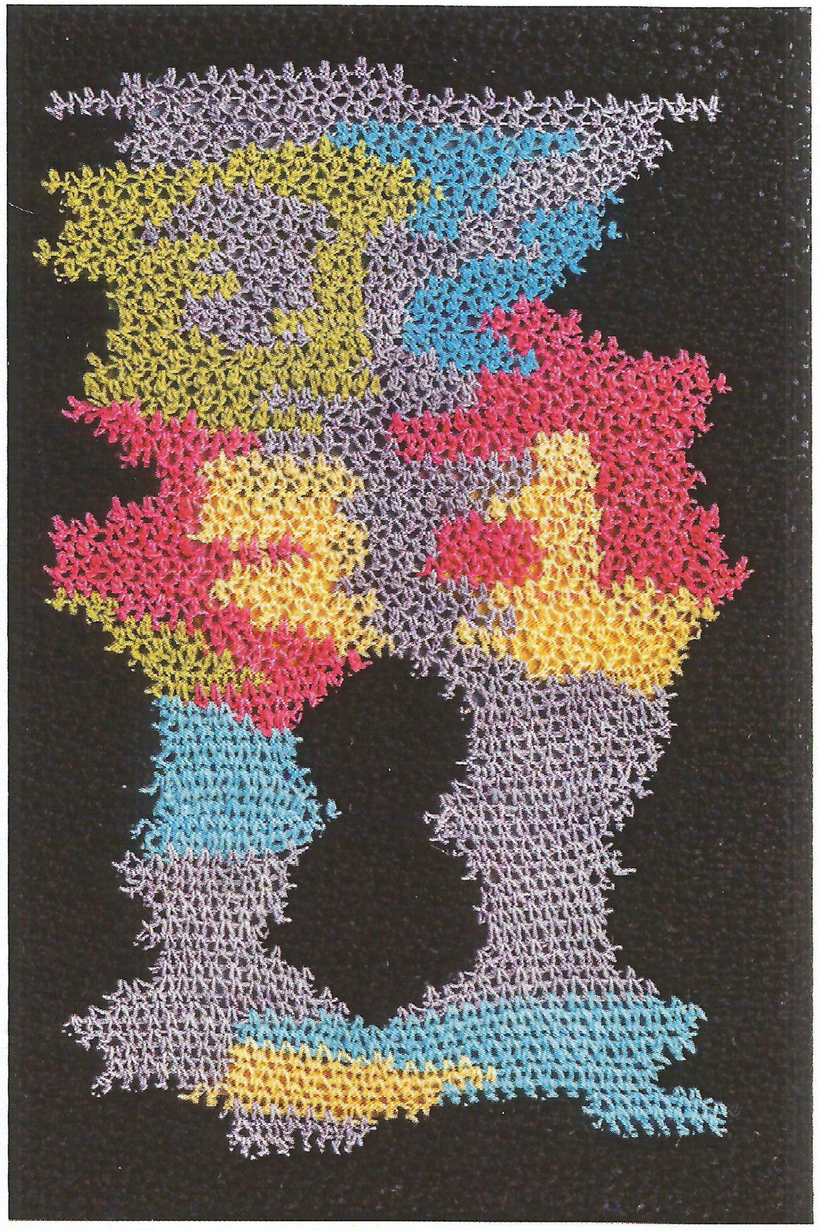
Untitled, Vintage fabric, mohair silk yarn, bubble elastic, crochet layered over hand-sewn mask with embroidery, 2020

Untitled
Wool yarn, printed silk Indian ribbon layered over acrylic painting, upholstered over foam board
30" x 40"
2019

Untitled
Wool and silk yarn layered over acrylic painting, upholstered over foam board
20" x 30"
2019

Untitled
Wool and silk yarn layered over acrylic painting, upholstered over foam board
16" x 20"
2019

Exhibition List Continued



Untitled, Wool and silk yarn layered over acrylic painting, upholstered over foam board, 20" x 30", 2019

Untitled
Averardo Bessie vintage silk blouse, silk cord and metal tips, obsidian stone, origami folding, embroidery, lined with high thread count Charisma pillowcase fabric
2020

Untitled
Vintage gingham pillowcase, mohair silk yarn, elastic cord with plastic stop and lock, crochet layered over honeycomb-smocked fabric, embroidery, lined with flannel pillowcase fabric
2020

Untitled
Mohair silk blend yarn, elastic cord with plastic stop and lock, crochet layered over silk hand-sewn mask, lined with dupioni silk
2020

Untitled
Wool and silk yarn layered over acrylic painting, upholstered over foam board
30" x 40"
2019

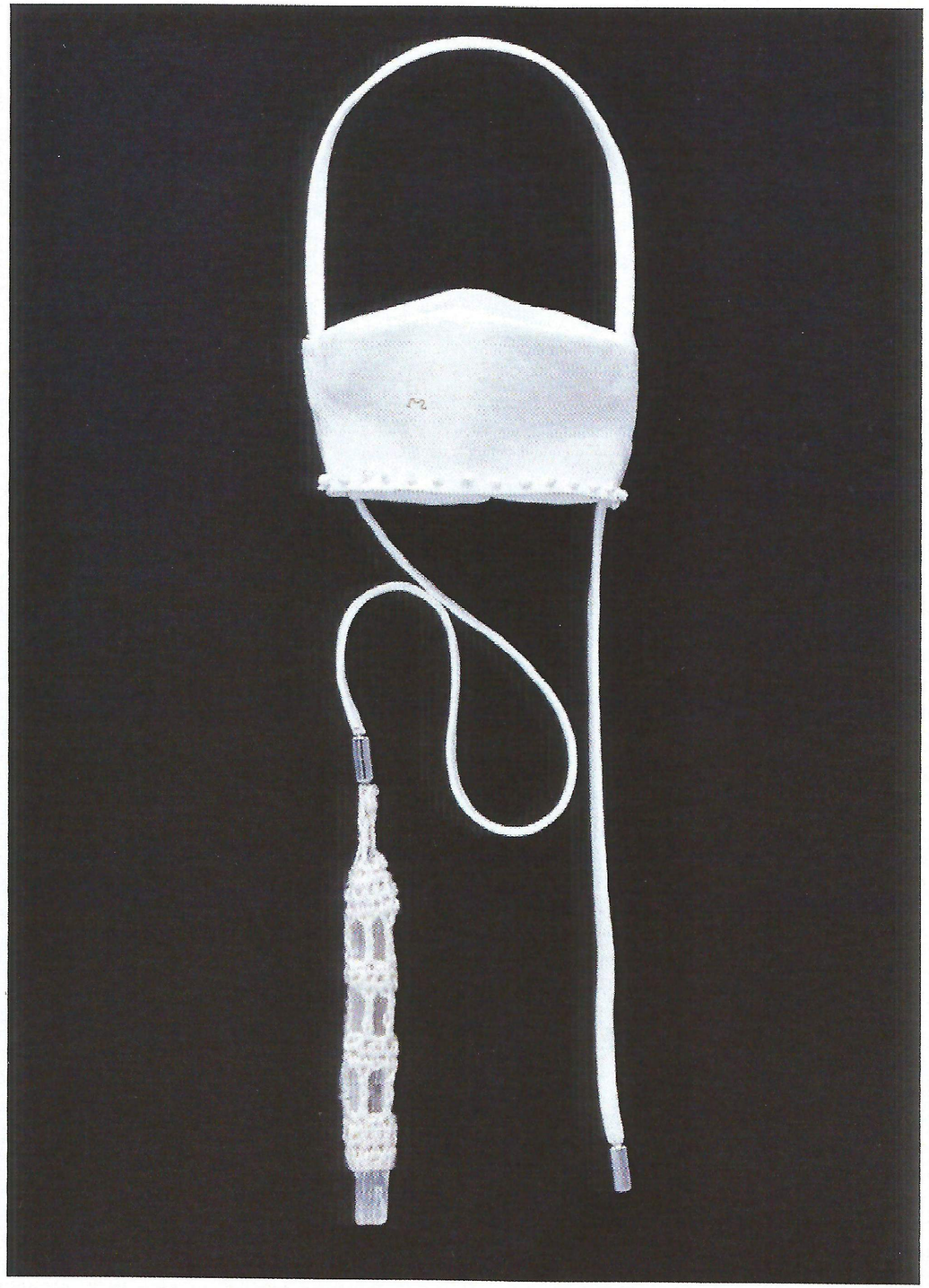
Untitled
Wool and silk yarn layered over acrylic painting, upholstered over foam board
30" x 40"
2019

Untitled
Wool and silk yarn layered over acrylic painting, upholstered over foam board
30" x 40"
2019

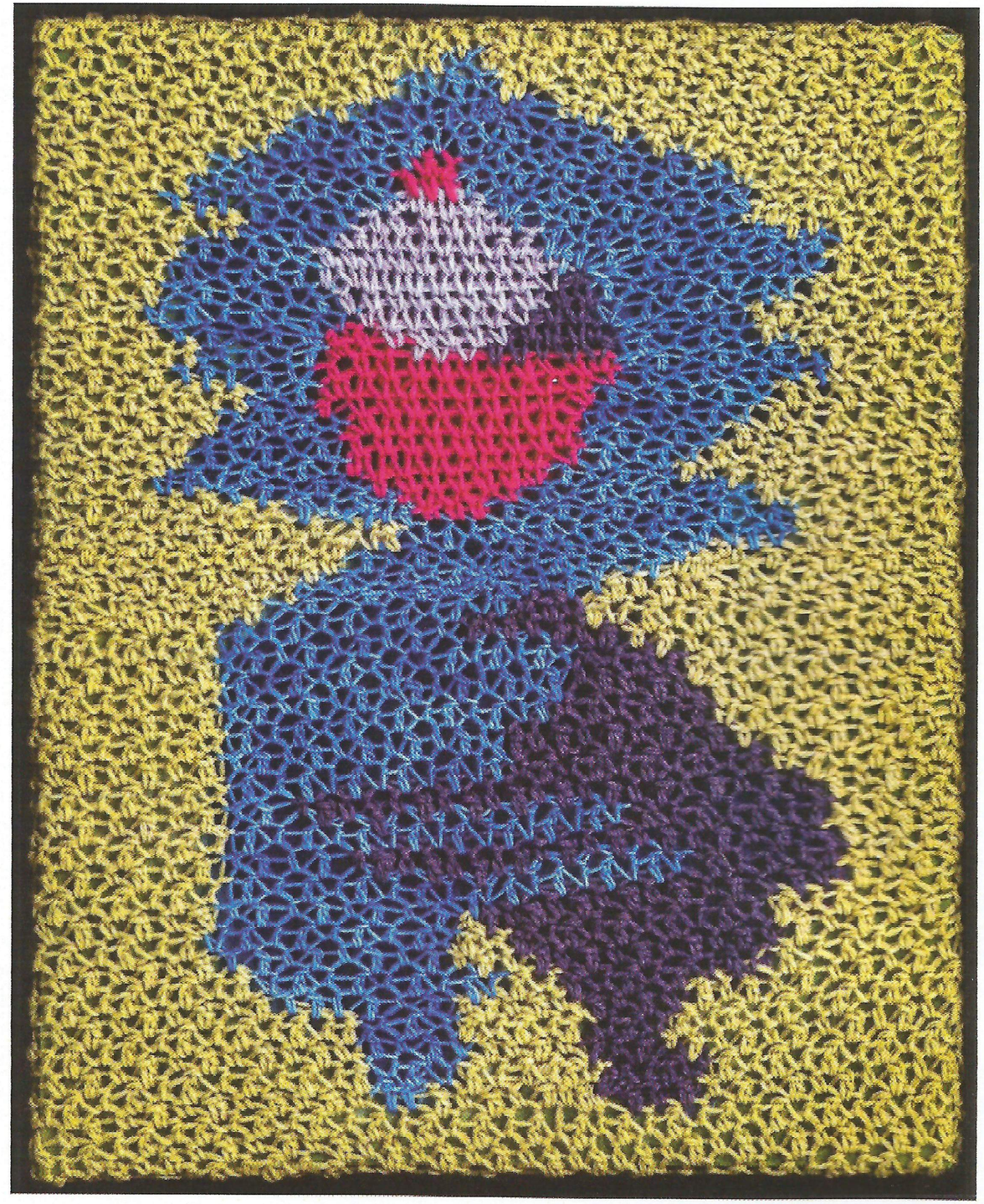
Untitled
Wool and silk yarn layered over acrylic painting, upholstered over foam board
30" x 40"
2019

Untitled
Wool and silk yarn layered over acrylic painting, upholstered over foam board
18" x 24"
2019

Untitled, Mohair silk blend yarn, elastic cord with plastic stop and lock, crochet layered over silk hand-sewn mask, lined with dupioni silk, 2020



Untitled, Silk thread, elastic cord with selinite crystal, hand-sewn with embroidery and crochet, lined with dupioni silk, 2020



Untitled, Wool and silk yarn layered over acrylic painting, upholstered over foam board, 16" x 20", 2019

The textile work of Suzannah Schreckhise combines intention with intuition. Her work feels careful and contemplative, a temperament that is reflected in her working practice. Schreckhise conceives her own unique abstract crochet patterns that evolve throughout their formation as she responds to previous choices. She turns these flat objects into a hybrid of sculpture and painting by stretching them over panels and allowing the spaces between stitches and seams to expose the structure underneath. *Breath*, Schreckhise's ongoing series of masks, takes a mundane and ubiquitous object and transforms each into wearable, functional art. She plays with the masks' simplistic shape by overlaying them with delicately crocheted coverings in a variety of forms. The masks themselves are made from recycled fabrics that hold memories for Schreckhise. This repurposing imbues the masks with sentiment that speaks to how masks themselves have already absorbed our memories of this moment in history.

Jessica Lenehan
Curator

The Arts & Science Center has three aspects of collecting and exhibition: art of the Delta, art by Arkansas artists, and art by African American artists.

ASC is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, a distinction held by fewer than 4% of museums in the United States.

This exhibition is supported in part by the Arkansas Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Arts & Science Center for Southeast Arkansas Endowment Fund

Arkansas Arts Council

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS arts.gov

ASC ASC701.ORG
The Arts & Science Center for Southeast Arkansas
870.536.3375
701 South Main Street
Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71601