

Rachel Brumer

I have had three nonverbal careers. My creative life began as a professional modern dancer. I received a BFA from Mills College with an interdisciplinary degree. After an additional degree I became an interpreter for American Sign Language, and now have been working as a visual artist for the past 18 years. Dance may seem an unlikely form of training for the visual artist, but ideas in the two disciplines are handled in surprisingly similar ways. Working with performance luminaries like Robert Wilson, Philip Glass, Lucinda Childs, and Mark Morris had a profound influence on my visual work. Sign language also looks at 3 dimensional space in dynamic ways useful to developing a visual vocabulary.

My present work is fiber based. The experience of cloth is universal as we are in constant contact with cloth, whether it is covering our bodies, used in sacred ritual, or looking at a flag. That said, some of my work uses elements of installation art, mixed media, photography, printmaking, embroidery, collage, light, and community based art. I am interested in challenging and expanding the boundaries of what has existed before in the sphere of quilting.

I recently walked on earth in Lutowiska, Poland where my grandparents walked. I wanted to cover myself with the dirt. I wanted to fill a plane with the dirt from Lutowiska and bring it back to Seattle to cover my living room. I wanted to know them. I made the piece, Memory's Main Gate. Over the past 18 years, I have created over 140 pieces, 6 installations, and a number of public art pieces. Cover Them, a quilt installation, was made in response to Serge Klarsfeld's book, French Children of the Holocaust. Coral, Pollen, Pearls, part of Harborview Hospital's Cultural Heritage Collection was inspired by studying Ketubbot, the highly decorated Jewish marriage contract. While creating this artwork, I considered the physical and emotional contract a hospital has with its patients. Slumber, the Nights, is an installation of diminutive bed forms, covered with "quilts" which are pricked with holes allowing light from the beds to project through. This installation was inspired by a friend's adoption of two children from Kazakhstan. Her description of the bedroom in the orphanage led to the installation. The light represents the power and hope in and of each child. Recently, I spent 12 days on a dairy farm outside Sedro Woolley with a project co sponsored by Maryhill Art Museum and the American Farmland Trust. For the piece 10, 482 Days Of Dairyness, I created a visual description of the accumulation of the farmer's days milking cows every morning and every afternoon for the past 24 years. Every card in the card catalogue is made from recycled fabric and represents one day of milking. 10, 402 is the cumulative number of days since they began milking up until the day the exhibit opened. In 2010 I was an artist in residence at Mission Creek Women's Correctional Facility. As well as working on a piece with women incarcerated there, I collaborated with the poet, Richard Gold on a piece called, I give you a hundred, a thousand, made of hand printed, torn collars, embroidered in gold thread with fragments of Richard's poem dedicated to the women of Mission Creek.

I continue to be passionate about translating ideas of life into visual representations. I want to create work with a personal vocabulary of images that has a strong metaphoric potential for all people.

Profile

Born – Oakland, California

B.F.A. – Mills College 1978

Professional modern dancer 1978 – 1987

Interpreter American Sign Language 1988 – 1990

Studio artist since 1990

Gallery Representation

Patricia Rovzar Gallery, Seattle, WA

Friesen Gallery, Sun Valley, ID

Seattle Art Museum Gallery, Seattle WA

Selected Exhibitions

- 2017 Featured Artist, Rovzar Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 2016 Annual Group Show, Rovzar Gallery
 "Ornaments of the Night," Friesen Gallery, Sun Valley, ID
- 2015 "Accreted Terrane", Museum of Northwest Art, La Conner, WA
 "Adaptations", Rovzar Gallery, Seattle, WA
 "Annual Group Show", Rovzar Gallery, Seattle, WA
 "Extreme Fibers", Muskegon Museum of Art, Muskegon, MI
 "Extreme Fibers", Dennon Museum Center Traverse City, MI
 "West Coast Fiber", Santa Rosa Art Museum, Santa Rosa, CA
- 2014 "Quilt Visions Biennial 2014," Visions Art Museum, San Diego, CA
 "Group Show," Grover/Thurston, Seattle, WA
 "Group Show," Friesen Gallery, Sun Valley, ID
 "Group Show," Old West Museum, Cheyenne, WY
- 2013 Window Installation, Seattle Art Museum Gallery, Seattle, WA
 "Fiberart International '13," Pittsburgh, PA
 "Quilt National, '13," The Dairy Barn, Athens, OH
 "drawn in," Anchor Art Space, Anacortes, WA

- "Moveable Type," Friesen Gallery, Sun Valley, ID
- 2012 "Partial Floor Plans of a Country of a World," Art Lending Library, Seattle, WA
 "Introduction," Andria Friesen Gallery, Sun Valley, Idaho
 "Soft Focus," Columbia City Gallery, Seattle, WA
 "Group Show," Grover/Thurston Gallery, Seattle, WA
 "Journeys," Seattle Art Museum Gallery, Seattle, WA
 "Secrets and Stories," Visions Art Gallery, San Diego, CA
- 2011 "Textiles Tieton, Fresh Threads," Mighty Tieton Warehouse, Tieton, WA
 "Traces, Mapping a Journey in Textiles," Gregg Museum, Raleigh, North Carolina
 "And I give you one hundred, one thousand," Grover/Thurston Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 2010 "Visions," Oceanside Museum of Art, Oceanside, CA
 "Artist Sketchbooks," Grover/Thurston Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 2009 "John M Walsh III Collects," San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles, San Jose, CA
 "Wonderful World of Quilts," Jupiter Arts Center, Centralia, WA
 "Contemporary Quilts," Columbus Cultural Arts Center, Columbus, OH
- 2008 "What a World," Grover/Thurston Gallery, Seattle, WA
 "Visions," Oceanside Museum of Art, Oceanside, CA
 "Bloodlines," University Art Gallery, University of Indiana, Terre Haute, IN
 "Surface Design," Ross Art Museum, Delaware, Ohio
- 2007 "Preview," Upstairs Gallery, Grover/Thurston Gallery, Seattle, WA
 "Quilts=Art=Quilts," Schweinfurth Memorial Art Center, Auburn, NY
 "Evolution of the Art Quilt," Washington State History Museum, Tacoma, WA
 "Introductions," Seattle Art Museum Gallery, Seattle, WA
 "Coming of Age," Washington State Convention and Trade Center, Seattle, WA
 "Building Tradition," Whatcom Museum of History & Art, Bellingham, WA
- 2006 "Drawing in the New Year: Exploring Ancestry and Memory at the Jewish New Year," Columbia City Gallery, Seattle, WA

- "12 Artists on Today's Farms," Maryhill Museum of Art, Goldendale, WA
- "Biannual Northwest Contemporary Quilt Invitational," American Art Company, Tacoma, WA
- 2005 "Textile Works," Carl Solway Gallery, Cincinnati, OH
- "Inaugural Art Exhibition," Lynnwood Convention Center, Lynnwood, WA
- "Quire: Book of Findings," Evergreen State College Galleries, Olympia, WA
- 2004 "Slumber, The Nights," Cultural Development Authority, Seattle, WA
- "Building Tradition: Gifts in Honor of the Northwest Collection," Tacoma Art Museum, Tacoma, WA
- "Northwest Biennial: Building Wise," Tacoma Art Museum, Tacoma, WA
- Traditional to Conceptual, Bruce Gallery, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania
- Contemporary Art Quilts, Elgin Community College, Elgin, IL
- "Biannual Northwest Contemporary Quilt Invitational," American Art Company, Tacoma, WA
- 2003 "Quire: Book of Findings," Society for Contemporary Photography, Kansas City, MO
- "Quilt National '03," The Dairy Barn, Athens, OH
- "Contemporary Art Quilts," Safety- Kleen Gallery, Elgin, IL
- 2002 "Crafts National 36," Zoller Gallery, Penn State University, University Park, PA
- "Book Forms, American Art Company, Tacoma, WA
- "6th Northwest Contemporary Quilt Invitational," American Art Company, Tacoma, WA
- 2001 "Sewn: Documents Northwest," Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA
- "Pattern By Definition," Texas Women's University, Denton, TX
- "Cover Them: A Quilt Installation" (solo exhibition), Holocaust Museum Houston, Houston, TX
- "Hanging by a Thread," Northern Arizona University Gallery, Flagstaff, AZ
- "Contemporary Art Quilts," University of Kentucky Art Museum, Lexington, KY
- 2000 "Artist as Quiltmaker IX," FAVA, Oberlin, OH
- "Phresh," Pacific Northwest Arts Council, Bumbershoot, Seattle Center, Seattle, WA
- "Biannual Northwest Contemporary Quilt Invitational," American Art Company, Tacoma, WA
- 1999 "Voices of the Diaspora," Ryland-Bowe Gallery, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA
- "Cover Them: A Quilt Installation" (solo exhibition), Betty and Milton Katz Gallery, Cherry Hill, NJ

- "Fiberart International," Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, Pittsburgh, PA
- "Pacific Northwest Annual," Bellevue Art Museum, Bellevue, WA
- "The Inquisitive Object," Oregon College of Arts and Crafts, Portland, OR
- "5th Northwest Contemporary Quilt Invitational," American Art Company, Tacoma, WA
- 1998 "4th Northwest Contemporary Quilt Invitational," American Art Company, Tacoma, WA
- "Artist as Quiltmaker VIII," FAVA, Oberlin, OH
- "The View From Here: 100 Artists Mark the Centennial of Mt Rainier National Park" – traveled to Yakima Valley Museum of Art, Yakima, WA; Seatac International Airport, Main Concourse, Seatac, WA; Fujinomiya Shimin Bunka Kaikan, Citizen's Cultural Center, Shizuoka-ken, Japan; Museum of Northwest Art, La Conner, WA
- "Cover Them: A Quilt Installation," Yeshiva University Museum, New York, NY
- "Recent Work," Nancy Sachs Gallery, St. Louis, MO
- "On the Edge: NW Quilt Art," University of British Columbia Art Gallery, Vancouver, BC
- 1997 "Nontraditional Quilts" (solo exhibition), Contemporary Crafts Gallery, Portland, OR
- "Cover Them: A Quilt Installation" (solo exhibition), King County Art Gallery, Seattle, WA
- "Quilt National 1997," The Dairy Barn, Athens, OH; traveled to West Bend Art Museum, West Bend, WI; Schneider Museum of Art, Ashland, OR
- "Quilts in Reformation," Seafirst Gallery, Seattle, WA
- "On the Edge: NW Quilt Art," Museum of the American Quilter's Society, Paducah, KY; traveled to University of British Columbia Art Gallery, Vancouver, BC
- "Quilt Expo VI," Innsbruck, Austria
- 1996 "Recent Work" (solo exhibition), Cunningham Gallery, University of Washington, Seattle, WA
- "Textile as Narrative/Ritual," ARC Gallery, Chicago, IL
- "Improvisations '96," The Gallery at Studio B, Lancaster, OH, 1996
- "3rd Invitational Contemporary Quilt Show," American Art Company, Tacoma, WA
- "The Painted Table" (solo exhibition), The Alexis Art Space, Seattle, WA
- "Crafts National 30," Zoller Gallery, Penn State University, University Park, PA
- "Visions 1996: Quilt Art," Museum of San Diego, San Diego, CA

- "Nonstop Northwest," American Museum of Quilts and Textiles, San Jose, CA
- "Fiber Artists in Washington D.C.," Offices of Senator Patty Murray, Washington D.C.
- "Drinking From The Well: Jewish Artists," Washington Trade and Convention Center, Seattle, WA
- 1995 "Domestic Bliss," Bumbershoot, Seattle Center, Seattle, WA
- "The Art Quilt: Celebrating Women's Visions and Energies," R.I.T., Rochester, NY
- "Quilt National 1995," The Dairy Barn, Athens, OH
- "Art Quilts" (solo exhibition), Seattle University, Seattle, WA
- "Craft America '95," Silvermine Guild Arts Center, New Canaan, CT
- "Diversity! Studio Art Quilts Associates," Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, Gatlinburg, TN, 1995
- "Contemporary Northwest Art Quilts," Bellevue Art Museum, Bellevue, WA; traveled to Holter Museum of Art, Helena, MT
- "The Essential Textile," Guilford Handcraft Center, Guilford, CT
- "Fiberart International '95," Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, Pittsburgh, PA
- "Art Quilts" (solo exhibition), Mercer Hood Gallery, Seattle, WA
- "Pacific Northwest Annual," Bellevue Art Museum, Bellevue, WA
- "Piecing It All Together," Whatcom Museum, Bellingham, WA
- "New Work: Methods, Makers, Meanings," Washington Trade and Convention Center, Seattle, WA
- "Fabric Art: Innovative Quilts," North Seattle Community College, Seattle, WA
- "Artist as Quiltmaker VI," FAVA, Oberlin, OH
- 1994 "The Art of the Quilt," Washington Center for the Performing Arts, Olympia, WA

Honors

- 2013 Fiberart International Award
- 2010 Surface Design Award, Quilt Visions
- 2009 Artist Trust Artist Fellowship
Jentel, Artist Residency Program, Banner, Wyoming
- 2007 Quilts=Art=Quilts, Juror's Award
- 2004 4Culture, Special Projects Award
- 2003 Quilt National, Juror's Award

- 2000 Artist Trust Gap Grant
- 1999 Fiberarts International Best of Show, Narrative Category, Pittsburgh, PA
Galeria Mesa, Body of Work Award, *Piecework*
- 1997 Artist Trust Gap Grant

Professional and Related Experience

- 2017–2016 Artist in Residence, Seattle Housing Authority, Yesler Terrace, with Pat Graney CO, Seattle, WA
- 2013–2010 Keeping the Faith, Artist in Residence, Pat Graney Company, Mission Creek Correctional Facility, Belfair, Washington
- 2011 Psychoanalytic Perspectives on Visual Art: And I give you one hundred, one thousand, with Rachel Brumer
Presentation for Seattle Psychoanalytic Society and Institute
- 2009 Juror, Contemporary Quiltart Associates
- 2008 Program speaker, Contemporary Quiltart Associates
- 2006 Grant reviewer, Seattle Arts Commission
- 2004 Program speaker, Contemporary Quiltart Associates
- 1999–2004 Artist Lecture Series program director, TOPS Middle School

Selected Collections

- Lifepoint Hospitals, Nashville, TN
- University Of Washington, Medical Center
- Swedish Hospital, Seattle, WA
- Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, Courthouse Portable Works Purchase, Seattle, WA
- Tacoma Art Museum, Tacoma, WA
- University of Washington, Special Collections, Seattle, WA.
- Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA.
- Museum of Arts and Design, formerly American Craft Museum, New York, NY.
- Seattle Arts Commission, Portable Works, Seattle, WA.
- Washington State Arts Commission, Art in Public Places Program, Olympia, WA: Oakville, Vancouver, Bellingham School Districts.
- Legacy Emanuel Hospital, Portland, OR.
- Harborview Hospital, Cultural Heritage Award, Seattle, WA.

Children's Receiving Center, Portland, OR.

The Brakensiek Collection of Contemporary Quilts, Los Angeles, CA.

The John M. Walsh III Collection, Martinsville, NJ.

YWCA Transitional Housing, Seattle, WA

Press

- 2014 *Artist: Rachel Brumer of Seattle, Washington, USA*, World of Threads Festival, Gareth Bate and Dawne Rudman.
Fan Mail: Rachel Brumer, DAILY SERVING, February 14.
- 2006 *Craft and Concept: The Rematerialization of the Art Object: "Patterning the Past, Rachel Brumer and Isabel Kahn,"* pages 351–355, Matthew Kangas, Midmarch Arts Press.
Quilter's Newsletter Magazine, John Walsh III, page 33, Passionate Patron of the Art Quilt, New York, NY January/ February.
- 2005 *Artisan Northwest*, page 24, Greener Pastures, Enumclaw, Washington, Fall.
- 2004 *Quilter's Newsletter Magazine*, Five Decades of Unconventional Quilts, page 53, New York, NY, November. *Seattle Weekly*, page 68, January 28–February 3.
- 2003 *Surface Design Journal*, pages 36–41, Sebastopol, CA, Winter.
Quilt National, page 24, Lark Books and The Dairy Barn, Southeastern Cultural Center.
- 2002 *Quilt Mania*, pages 110–113, St. Etienne de Montlue, France, January.
- 2001 *Houston Chronicle*, pages 1D, 3D, Houston, TX, September 27.
Jewish Herald-Voice, page 18, Houston, TX, September 19.
PBS, "Weekday," Houston, TX, October 30.
The News Tribune, "TGIF," cover, pages 3, 6, Tacoma, WA, November 2.
KHWB, "Outlook Houston," Houston, TX, November 4.
Seattle Weekly, Seattle, WA, March 29.
- 2000 *Fiberarts Magazine*, "The Creative Process," page 8, Altamount Press, November/December.
Art/Quilt Magazine, #11, pages 35–37, 62, Houston, TX, Spring.
- 1999 *Judaic Artisans Today: Contemporary Judaica in the United States and Those Who Created It*, pages 138–139, Flower Valley Press, Gaithersburg, MD.
- 1998 *American Craft Magazine*, "Portfolio," page 57, American Craft Council, December/January.
- 1997 *Fine Art Quilts: Work by Artists of the Contemporary Quilt Association*, pages 12–14, Fiber Studio Press.

- The Art Quilt*, pages 13, 223, Hugh Lauter Levin Associates
- Quilt National*, page 97, Lark Books and The Dairy Barn Southeastern Cultural Arts Center
- 1996 *Fiberarts Magazine*, "Profile," page 23, Altamont Press, November/December.
- Visions: Quilt Art*, page 45, C&T Publishing, Lafayette, CA.
- 1995 *Art/Quilt Magazine*, #4, page 28, Houston, TX, Fall.
- Fiberarts Design Book Five*, page 145, Lark Books.
- Quilt National*, page 77, Lark Books and The Dairy Barn Southeastern Cultural Arts Center.
- Quilting International*, #40, page 39, Newton, NJ, March.
- 1994 *Visions: Quilts, Layers of Excellence*, pages 35, 54, C&T Publishing; Lafayette, CA.