

## Artist Statement

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I need to make things. Creativity and crafting have carried me through both the joyous and challenging moments in life. Escapism through making is a glorious thing. The act of making to manage emotions, is for me, intrinsically linked to the 'why' and therein lies insight to my works themes. Reflection. Trying to understand and make sense of such powerful emotions as grief, anxiety, loss, love and happiness. Now as a middle-aged woman I find myself questioning the notion of identity. Am I my body, am I my past, am I my memories, am I other people's expectations, am I just made up of the collective experiences of those around me?

As a metalsmith/jeweller who had left her bench and adopted many varied materials over the years, I have come full circle. This time being drawn to wire. The daughter of a seamstress, I grew up with sparse threads strewn all about the house, the sound of cloth cutting resonating on the kitchen table and prickly hugs from needles tucked into clothes for safe keeping. Wire is like a thread. It can be used to represent a line, woven like a fabric or constructed to give form. My future practice will be a collaboration of wire and textiles and a reflection on identities. A portrait of who I think I am.

All of us question our own identities at some stage in life. We all wonder how other people see us and perhaps make changes to meet their needs. We live in a world where identity and the expressing of it has become such a contested topic. The use of soft wires and loose threads interwoven throughout, speaks to the fragile fleeting nature of this topic. Small sculptural objects representing parts of the human form, or more figurative wall hangings. All easily altered, changed forever, with external intervention.