

# Melody Nuñez Artist Statement

I am a mixed-media artist who works in fiber art, using fabric, thread, and vintage textiles. I am compelled to create; making art fuels me and is a positive form of self-expression that has provided a sheltering harbor during life's many storms. I use art to process my life experiences and translate them into a visual language. Though my work is autobiographical it explores universal themes.

I am drawn to handmade vintage textiles, partly because of their ties to women makers from the past, like my grandmothers. I celebrate the skill and artistry of these women and strive to interrupt the traditional fine art landscape with their materials and techniques. I see beauty in these domestic objects, even when they're worn or damaged, and find it thrilling to give these items a new visual significance. I love seeing the artist's "hand" in art and value irregularity in my work - evidence that it was carefully made by hand versus being manufactured.

Creativity is my life-long companion, and this essential relationship has resulted in many artistic adventures. I earned a B.A. in Art from the University of California, Santa Barbara. I have participated in art exhibits in both California and Kansas, and was selected to participate in the Residency Program at Dorland Mountain Arts in 2021. My art and articles have been featured in several magazines, including *Where Women Create*.