

NANCY CONDON

ARTIST STATEMENT

I make art out of an urge to create something meaningful. I work in fiber out of a need to connect to the past. I merge graphic imagery with the tactile qualities of fabric out of a desire to link the past, present and future. My artwork is an integral part of who I am. By referencing the complexity of the emotional, moral, social and economic realities in the imagery I use, I seek to process the parts into a cohesive whole.

The themes in my work are often about my experiences and my reactions to those experiences. I seek to make some kind of nonverbal sense out of the dance between my head and my heart.

I begin with an idea that usually takes me down a path I have not been before. I work in fabric and in paper. I pick up bits of garbage on my walks or as I sort the recycle, which I often use in my work. I take photos, of both the natural world and the garbage and other evidence of how humans have damaged the earth or each other.

I use a scanner and Photoshop to develop my imagery, which I often print on fabric. I also dye fabric or use found fabric. I begin each piece by establishing an internal dialogue with the subject matter and with the fabric. Eye, brain, hand and the materials I use all have a part to play in the dialogue.

BIOGRAPHY

I spent much time as a child with my German grandmother, who made me paper dolls from the Sears catalog. I sat under the quilting frame and pushed the needle back up. My mother let me use the sewing machine when I was seven. In high school I was voted most likely to succeed and I always wondered “at what?” I drew as a child and got a painting degree at the University of Minnesota.

I worked for thirty plus years as a graphic designer and creative director. I am now retired. Being bombarded by so many images for so long requires that I now have a need to integrate and process that experience. I have worked in fiber for all of that time in between working fulltime, and raising a family. Now I am retired am committed to seeing how far I can take the ideas and visions I have carried in my head for many years.