

# NEW TRADITIONS: *Transitions in Fiber Arts*



**September 5 - October 15, 2022**

**September 15th 5-7p.m.**

**Benedict and Dorothy Gorecki Gallery & Lounge  
Benedicta Arts Center**

Fiber arts often blur the line between art and craft, bringing up the question of utility. Is art made to be used, or just observed? Fiber artists reply, why not both? Textiles surround us in our daily lives, to the point of becoming invisible. New Traditions invites you to look more closely at the intentional choices of the artists in creating both mundane and elaborate pieces, and perhaps to carry that mindset into your daily life.

## CONNECT

TOPICS AND THEMES THIS PERFORMANCE ENGAGES WITH:

- Meditation
- Craft vs Art
- Belonging
- Intersectionality
- Think Deeply
- Live Courageously
- Gender Roles

## ENGAGE

“Productive fidgeting” is a term Jennifer Plas and Aspen Mahon use to describe their art making practice. Jennifer and Aspen are the two artists behind New Traditions, and both use art to overcome their social anxiety while out in public.

- Have you ever tried something creative and how did it make you feel?
- What types of coping mechanisms do you use to overcome your own anxieties?

This exhibition is comprised of art works created from mediums traditionally thought of as craft or utilitarian. Aspen Mahon is quoted as saying, “If they get stained, oh well. If they get torn, I will happily mend them. It is important to me that the things I make to be used, are actually used. It is a kind of wordless communication of love between me and the recipient.”

- How does observing a piece from multiple perspectives, that of a functional object vs that of a fine art piece, meant only to be admired, change its meaning?
- Why does hanging art in a gallery change the way a viewer thinks about it?
- How does the perceived material value of an object change, depending on the location of where it is displayed?
- What does it mean to “use” a piece of art vs just looking at it?
- In what ways do gender roles effect the way art is viewed?

New Traditions pushes the viewer to look at art as a form of meditation and reflection. Grief uses color as a way of remembering an event. Colored dyes are used as a way of sharing the feelings in the memory and transform those feelings into a visual experience for the viewer.

- If you had to associate colors with feelings, what colors would you choose for each feeling? Why?
- After walking through the exhibition, what types of emotions did you experience?