

Iviva Olenick

Artist Statement

In a culture increasingly reliant on the internet, email, and text messaging to communicate, connect, and reconnect, I have chosen embroidery, an old-fashioned and time-consuming medium, as my primary communication vehicle. I create vignettes smaller than one foot in scale incorporating text and illustrations.

My hand-stitched pieces, which I think of as a blog, are accompanied by an actual web log, *Were I So Besotted* (<http://wereisobesotted.blogspot.com>) where I bare all about my hopes, experiences, and expectations. Through both blogs, I exploit and explore my own feelings of vulnerability, and continually readjust and experiment with boundaries between public and private.

Artist Bio

Iviva Olenick is a Brooklyn-based artist who merges craft with digital media. Pieces from her hand-embroidered blog, "Were I So Besotted," are represented by Muriel Guepin Gallery in Cobble Hill Brooklyn. Work from *FiberGraf*, her collaboration with graffiti artist, Jon Baker, is available at Central Booking in Dumbo, Brooklyn. Iviva is currently exploring ways of incorporating film into her embroidery-based artwork as a 2011-12 BRIC Media Arts Fellow.

She is also crafting *The Brooklyn Love Exchange*, an embroidered map of Brooklyn love, with sponsorship from the Greater New York Arts Development Fund of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, administered by the Brooklyn Arts Council.

Artist Resume

Exhibitions:

- 2/2013 "Codex Book Arts Fair, California" c/o Center for Book Arts
 2-3/2013 "Word" Mount Vernon Public Library. Mount Vernon, NY
 Earlier at Corridor Gallery, Brooklyn, NY 9-10/2012
 11/2012-1/2013 "Art from the Boros" Denise Bibro Fine Art, NY, NY
 10/2012 "To Be Considered" Muriel Guepin Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
 9/2012 "Embroidered Tweet/Post-it Note Confessional." Dumbo Arts Festival 2012
 Brooklyn, NY
 7-9/2012 "Tell Me How You Really Feel: Diartistic Tendencies" Center for Book Arts, NY, NY
 Curators Alexander Campos and Rory Golden
 Later at Payne Gallery of Moravian College, Bethlehem, PA 9-11/2012
 7-9/2012 "Anne's Open Studio" Anne's Studio in the Berkshires, Stockbridge, MA
 6-7/2012 "Home is Where the Needle Marks" Pop Tart Gallery, San Francisco, CA
 5-9/2012 "Craft Spoken Here" Perelman Building Gift Shop,
 Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA
 4/2012 "Softer Edges: Fiber Artists and the Urban Environment"
 Fleisher Art Memorial, Philadelphia, PA
 Part of Fiber Philadelphia 2012
 3-7/2012 "Funny Ha-Ha" Brooklyn Arts Council, Brooklyn, NY
 10-11/2012 "The Balance" Hive at 55, New York, NY
 11/2011 "The Brooklyn Love Exchange: A Portrait of Brooklyn Romance."
 Muriel Guepin Gallery, Brooklyn, NY.
 Solo culminating exhibit for BAC-funded project.
 9/2011 "On-Site Interviews for The Brooklyn Love Exchange."
 Dumbo Arts Festival, Brooklyn, NY.
 9/2010 "Sleeping with Strangers." Salon Ciel, NYC.
 Two-person show with photographer Robert Gerhardt.
 2- 3/2007 "The Stein-Olenick Family Album."
 Solo show at Pratt Manhattan CCPS Gallery. NY, NY.
 8/2011 "Can't Hear the Revolution."
 Kunsthalle Galapagos, Brooklyn, NY.
 8/2011 "Condition X." School of Visual Arts Westside Gallery, NY, NY.
 5/2011 "Affordable Art Fair, 2011."
 Represented by Muriel Guepin Gallery. NY, NY.
 11/2010 "Golden Blueprints: Grids, Graphs and Charts."
 WG Gallery, Brooklyn, NY.
 6-8/2010 "from the tongue." Lotus Gallery. NY
 5/2010 "Affordable Art Fair, 2010." Represented by Muriel Guepin Gallery. NY.
 10-11/2009 "Visual Vernacular." Muriel Guepin Gallery. Brooklyn, NY.
 7-9/2009 "Threads: Interweaving Textu[r]al Meaning." Center for Book Arts. NY
 5/2009 "Social (Virus)." NurtureArt Gallery. Brooklyn, NY
 5/2009 "Affordable Art Fair 2009." Represented by Muriel Guepin Gallery. NY
 2-3/2009 "Silent Auction." VIDEO Gallery, Brooklyn, NY.

- 7/2008 "Stories We Tell Ourselves." Rhonda Schaller Chelsea. NY.
 9-12/2007 "Site Matters: Brooklyn Represents." BAC Gallery. Brooklyn, NY

Bibliography

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<http://brooklynbased.net/email/2013/02/a-stitch-in-time-saves-140-scharcters/>
- MacDonell, Nancy. "Handsewn Stories." Printed in The New York Times, p.ST3. Sunday, Feburary 19, 2012.
- Geis, Shannon. "Embroidered Love Stories." The BK Buzz.. 11//18/11. Article and podcast.
 Gomez, Enrico. "A Portrait of Brooklyn Romance." Wagmag. 11/1/11
- Prain, Leanne. *Hoopla: The Art of Unexpected Embroidery*. Arsenal Pulp Press.
 Book release expected Fall 2011.
- Amre, Klimchak. "Passing the Bar: 61 Local." *New York Press*. 3/23/2011.
<http://www.nypress.com/article-22240-passing-the-bar-61-local.html>.
- Roalf, Peggy. "Stitched Stories at Center for Book Arts." *DART Design Arts Daily*. 7/8/2009.
<http://www.ai-ap.com/dart/?p=913>
- The Center for Book Arts. "Threads: Interweaving Textural Meaning." Exhibition catalogue. 2009.
- Davis, Rebecca Willa. "Cheap Thrills." *Nylon Magazine*. 5/7/2009.
<http://www.nylonmag.com/?section=article&parid=3010&printReview>
- Good, Liz. "Sampling: A Showcase of Textiles Focusing on the Stitch."
Fiberarts. Sept/Oct 2008; and http://www.fiberarts.com/back_issues/September-October2008/sampling.asp

Workshops

- 2007- current **3rd Ward, Brooklyn, NY**
 Teach a range of embroidery workshops, whci cover stitch glossary, image transfers onto fabric, various materials and methods, and support for projects-in-progress. Classes include: "Basic Embroidery/Stitch Sampler;" "Embroidered Tweets and Love Notes;" "Drawing with Thread;" "Embroidery and Mixed Media;" and "Advanced Embroidery Studio Workshop."
- 2010- current **Center for Book Arts, New York, NY**
 "Stitching/Crafting a Narrative:" weekend workshop focusing on non-traditional artist books using embroidery and related fabric techniques.

Artist Talks

- 3/2013 **Narrative Threads: Tapping the Motherline**, Alijira, Newark, NJ
 Participated in discussion with artists Alyson Pou and Janet Henry about the history, power and magic of combining narrative, storytelling and autobiography with traditional women's crafts.
- 2/ 2013 **The Windup: Podcast and Radio**, 3rd Ward, Brooklyn, NY
 Participated in panel with Brendan Baker and Zachary Dinerstein about using podcasts as part of one's artwork, and to promote one's work.
- 8/2012 **Tell Me How You Really Feel: Diaristic Tendencies**
 Center for Book Art, NY, NY
 Artist talk in conjunction with exhibit of the same name with panelists Rebecca Carter, Patricia Dahl and China Marks

Awards & Special Projects

- 2013 **@Embroidery Poems #Brooklyn Tweets**
 Funding from the Greater New York Arts Development Fund of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, administered by the Brooklyn Arts Council (BAC) to collect and embroider Twitter “poems,” resulting in poetry reading and embroidery circle.
- 2011 **The Brooklyn Love Exchange: A Portrait of Brooklyn Romance**
 Funding from the Greater New York Arts Development Fund of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, administered by the Brooklyn Arts Council (BAC) to collect and embroider Brooklynites’ love stories. See <http://BrooklynLoveExchange.blogspot.com>
- 2011-2012 **2011-12 BRIC Media Arts Fellowship**
 Award from BRIC Arts/Media includes 30 hours of training in field production/non-linear editing, and studio time to develop a film.

Education

- 5/06 AAS Textile/Surface Design
 Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT), SUNY
- 5/97 BA Psychology; French Language and Literature
 Binghamton University, SUNY