



JULIA MAE BANCROFT
(Washington, DC, b. USA)

EDUCATION

2013 B.F.A. The Corcoran College of Art + Design, Washington, DC

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2022 *Art Exhibition Experience featuring Julia Mae Bancroft*, Purple Fern Studio, Winchester, VA

2019 *Through Glass Lace*, Morton Fine Art, Washington, DC

2017 *Mending Moments*, Morton Fine Art, Washington, DC

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2021 *FEMME Artists for Global Gender Equality*, Art Impact International, Virtual Exhibition

2020 *Moments in Time...a very weird time*, Athenaeum, Alexandria, VA

2018 *New Works by MFA Artists*, a pop-up project* by Morton Fine Art at Gallery B, Bethesda, MD

2017 *Alchemical Vessels*, Joan Hisaoka Healing Arts Gallery, Washington, DC

2016 *Handmade: Made By Hand*, Morton Fine Art, Washington, DC

2013 *NEXT*, Corcoran Gallery, Washington, DC

BIOGRAPHY

Born and raised in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains, Julia Mae Bancroft grew up deeply inspired by nature. In 2009 she moved to Washington DC where she attended The Corcoran College of Art + Design, graduating with a Bachelor's of Fine Arts degree in 2013. Spending a semester abroad living in London England Bancroft first explored interests in fashion design at the Central Saint Martins College of Art + Design. It was here that she began consistently incorporating hand stitching into artwork, incredibly moved by the one-of-a-kind practice of couture embroidery. The discovery of this medium in combination with Bancroft's background in darkroom photography and painting melded into her current mixed media practice. Currently, still living in Washington DC, she continues to fuse a variety of media throughout her process, consistently building upon technique and material. Bancroft has been a represented artist in Washington DC since 2016, producing three solo exhibitions as well as participating in several group exhibitions.

PROCESS

My process is meditative. I gravitate towards all different kinds of materials and am constantly collecting pieces of inspiration, from photography, papers and fabrics to insects and plant life. I begin creating by observing these pieces of inspiration and meditating on their arrangement. Slowly a narrative begins to reveal itself. In a back-and-forth process of mark making, collaging, and layering this narrative, which

began as a scattered observation, develops into its own moment. The careful repetitive nature of deconstructing and reconstructing my materials by hand allows me to enter a very tranquil and introspective space throughout the creative process and always leaves me feeling intimately attached to the artwork I create. As my hand works through this intensive layering process I am thinking about my own relationship with the narrative I am creating but also about the endless potential that I hope to provoke in viewers as they find their own path through the finished pieces. I work in a wide range of artistic mediums including oil, gouache, ink, found object, embroidery, collage, fiber and print-making.

STATEMENTS

'*Ultra Violet Dream* is a brand new series in which I revisit the process of working with ink on paper, layering transfers onto the page, rubbing away the surface and then rebuilding the composition with oil paint, collage, gouache and other medium. Cautiously stepping back out into the world in 2022 stirs post apocalyptic visions of technologies abandoned and overrun by the unbroken cycle of natural life. Imagining the highly lit document glass in a Xerox machine, I am inspired to create images that explore penetrating light, glitch, and specimen.'

-Julia Mae Bancroft, 2022

'My latest studio series *Someday Songs*, created in response to the dramatic societal shifts experienced in the last year, is an on going series that was born as the pandemic struck - as collective fear, anxiety and isolation became our new reality. Visions of a portal into a new world of pix-elated fields of wild flowers, virtual ocean waves frozen in a reel of film, and solace on a shrouded pathway fueled me to create abundant and magical spaces to explore outside of our own isolation.

These works are meant to create obscure narratives that invite viewers to piece together their own relationships to the imagery. "Escapism, self-reflection, acceptance and love" are words I use to describe the driving forces behind this series. By re-purposing Polaroid film as art medium I hope to complement the timeless nostalgia consistent in all artwork I create - familiar yet otherworldly.'

-Julia Mae Bancroft, 2020

'In my recent body of work *Through Glass Lace* I continue to evolve the idea of piecing together a fragmented narrative by way of layering medium and texture. Imagining a glass lace screen through which we can blur the lines between strength and fragility, imagination and reality, macro and micro.

I chose to focus on creating emotion within the atmospheric spaces, allowing the reflective figures to float across the layers. In this series we are free to explore the boundlessness of intimacy and how our internal conversations parallel and reflect the spaces we trace.'

-Julia Mae Bancroft, 2019

" *Mending Moments* is a title that describes both the literal process and the conceptual elements explored in the artwork I make. Using various fibers, mediums and textures, I stitch together layers of imagery, rearranging fragments and binding them back together to form a new ethereal moment for reflection. In this continued series I work to create intimate spaces where we can explore our own layers of memory, perspective, and phantasy."

-Julia Mae Bancroft, 2017

PRESS

The Winchester Star, Art Exhibition Experience at Purple Fern Studio, Jeff Taylor, October, 2022

The Washington Post, Gallery Exhibition 'Through Glass Lace' Review by Mark Jenkins, May, 2019

The Washington Post, Gallery Exhibition 'Mending Moments' Review by Mark Jenkins, December, 2017

The Washington Post, Gallery Exhibition 'Handmade Made By Hand' Review by Mark Jenkins, November, 2016