

Serena Buschi, Lineage Is My Armor - Review by Lady MacRady



Serena Buschi's modus operandi is about the magic of self discovery. The materials she uses follow her process of thinking, but also dictate the form she is creating, to further new meaning.

We see thought patterns through in-progress snapshots she grabs as she works. There's a pretty calico oval of vintage cotton, quilted, embroidered, and with ruffles. Perhaps this is a remnant from the years of sewing she did with her mother. The layers of hand stitching and the reference to 'pillow' provide comfort in memory, a her story herstory perspective. Working with her hands prompts words that become a theme, to defend and protect: Lineage is My Armor.

As she works, a familiar form in her arsenal of textile methods appears. She adds a colorful chain-stitched and labored-on spider web, a visual obstacle. As its web-ish profile develops from dark to light, to the symmetry of a flower, the center becomes an almost-mandala. It makes us shift our vision from background to foreground. The eyes separate the forms into symbols, and the pillow becomes a bosom.

The process of thinking and change of materials speaks of the conflict and intensity of being female, of being objectified, of mothering, of the psyche breaking loose to express-itself-by-making with materials.

Materials and the multiple processes are compared. It's no longer a shield, it has become a shared and open story.

