

And another thing... by Jennifer McNeely

I have always worked with a belief that one's character transfers into personal items. I collect nylons, hats, gloves curlers and other symbols of properly restrained ladies for my work. I hope to transcend the found object and instead create a textile woven of the lives of the women that these items inhabited.

Conceptually, my work has is about breakdown and repair, and alludes to the cultural situation and compulsions of women. The time women spend on repair and improvements is endless: on our physical appearances and well-being, on our relationships, on our work, and the world around us. I witness this desire to improve and repair everywhere. I also witness the damage it causes when the desire to improve becomes an obsession. Because there is always something imperfect to focus on, the work never seems complete. Maintenance becomes at once overwhelming and seemingly necessary.

My subject matter is often an exploration of contradictions. That is, I explore the contradictions between hard and soft, the masculine and the feminine, the grotesque and the beautiful. The work of women both historically and currently mirrors these contradictions. It can be both funny and sad. In visual terms, these distinctions become hazy and eventually, if allowed, they merge to create a new thing entirely.

This body of work represents a transition in my work. My work prior to this focused more of paying tribute too, or creating reverence for the object itself, its role, or mode in context to my vision. This work has begun to transcend the object. This work is bigger than the sum of its parts and has moved ahead. I can hear its cry... "And another thing!"