

I am fascinated by the way that we constantly adapt to change and are continually reconfigured by our experiences and influences from the world around us. Our relationships are expected to respond to good and bad times, growth, challenges and change. As we mature, our relationships become complex, altered versions that have more layers, depth, and meaning. We may want to cover up experiences or parts of our lives, but remnants of those parts of ourselves are always there, in some manifestation, often peeking out from behind a front we have created. Exploring these guarded parts of ourselves and others invites intimacy, empathy, and understanding in relationships. I am intrigued with the process of creating, deconstructing, and then redefining a new composition to communicate the depth of our complex, multi-faceted lives and ever evolving relationships. My artwork references relationships from many different perspectives. For example, some pieces address my personal relationships, including my fascination with communication struggles in relationships. Our individual and shared experiences and influences affect how we understand and convey meaning. I am interested in exploring how constant change in our lives influences how we emotionally process emphasis, content, and context. Other pieces explore my relationship with the environment or respond to the quilting community, how it has influenced me, and my place both within and outside it.

My artist's books also reference relationships in the context of food and drinks and their roles in celebrations, personal relationships and phobias and other's responses to them. Right now, I am working on projects related to viruses and relationships. One project is artist's books that use the structure of a book to act as a vessel for scientific research about viruses. Reading the news, I have been inundated with stories of viruses and epidemics, such as Zika and HIV, that create fear in relationships with and for our partners and anyone in our communities. As the COVID-19 pandemic emerged, these experiences and issues have been amplified and become widespread. Working with embroidered textile pieces from found, damaged quilt blocks speaks to the idea of the hope that scientific research can create a pathway for healing and mending from the effects that these viruses are having on relationships. The textiles refer to the history of embroidery, quilts and mending to repair and strengthen objects that have kept us warm and are created for celebrations and losses in our communities. Most of the books have been concealed, showing only an embroidered and embellished textile piece created from found damaged quilt blocks. The obscured content of the book also represents the many people suffering from these viruses that are anonymous. These textile pieces are stitched with the shapes of virus cell structures.