

STATEMENT OF INTENT

Department of Applied Materials / School of Fine Art

B A (HONS) TEXTILE ART & ARTEFACT

TITLE: Forget Me Notts

NAME: Jasmine Carroll DATE: 03/12/2024

PROPOSAL

INSPIRATION

I am proud of my heritage in the textiles industry. Being the fifth generation in my family to pursue work in the textiles industry, I carry on a legacy that spans generations of skilled artisans. These artisans include Belfast Swiss Embroiderers, Nottingham Lace Makers, menders in the Women's Air Force serving during World War Two, not to mention being surrounded by practical sewers and knitters. Members of my family reside in Limerick and Ardee, Co. Louth. Research into the industry has shown connections between Limerick Lace and Nottingham Lace, and between lace making schools in Ardee and machines in Nottingham, further solidifying my heritage in the industry.

While the activities of textile production, use and skills have radically changed over the generations - I still feel a connect to these textile roots and that of my families location in County Louth with its mythical stories of Cu Chulainn, Fherdia, the Brown Bull of Cooley and St Brigid.

This relationship to place - is deforced by GAA affiliation – I have played, supported and participate in the community bonds of such affiliation. I am drawn to the textile paraphernalia of banners / badges and flags and in the stories behind county colours.

MOTIVATION

I aim to incorporate the traditional techniques of lace-making with contemporary materials. My work will be 'tested' in site-specific locations. I will consider interactive elements, to encourage the viewer to engage with the work differently from passive gaze. The work is of 'place' and of the community and therefore is a homage to ancestry and heritage.

"The harp of Irish lace lacks the elegance of shape which well proportioned limbs might give it. It deserves better treatment in the country of its adoption" (Cole, (no date), p.9)

I found this quote really interesting as the author felt that our national symbol was poorly represented in lace work. This quote is motivational to me as I feel like I want to properly represent all who have come before me, their industry work and skills in textiles. I aim to give my ancestors the treatment they deserve.

PROCESS / ACTIVITIES

It has been the lace skills that I continue to explore into my final year project.

Yet, like all textile production before me, is changing, being reimagined, finding relevant and is key for me to tell stories. It is the lace process I will intertwine with my heritage / family / community interests incorporating the physical (found materials man-made and natural) with that of metaphysical.

- Possible Research into Celtic stories, symbols and imagery
- Research into county colours and flags
- Research into the lace industry - both Nottingham and Ireland
- Visiting NIVAL's LACE collection
- Research into interactive textiles
- Lace-making techniques on a larger scale
- Incorporating found materials / objects
- Paper cut-work
- Origami
- Variety of different threads / yarns / non-traditional

ASPIRATION

As joint education student, secondary school art teaching is the obvious first destination after graduation. Yet my Studio Degree work would allow me to consider facilitation / participatory / community initiatives and context. Such directions would allow to me meet very different cohorts outside of a school context.