

KRISTIN LOFFER THEISS



Statement

On April 1st, I started making masks with my hand printed fabrics. I felt the call to action because of my sewing abilities, my on-going supply of fabric, and my design business, to step up and help. I made masks using the pattern that my doctor's office recommended and my hand printed fabric designs to offer something beautiful & artful for people during such a gloomy time. I offered the "ROYGBIV Collection" on my website and continuously printed new colors and patterns - I organized each finished batch in a color wheel photo to entertain myself and to keep things creatively interesting. I made a physical "Mask Color Wheel" to represent my artistic

COVID-19 response. Mask making has been a creative and humanitarian response that helps me survive the ongoing pandemic while creating a color and design dialogue with people. I made 2,687 hand printed masks in 2020.

Bio

Kristin Loffer Theiss was born in Washington, in 1971 and moved to Mount Vernon when she was two. She began her college education at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, WA where she received a B.A. in Fine Art with an emphasis in drawing and painting in 1993. She then attended graduate school at the School of Visual Arts in NYC where she received a M.F.A. in Studio Art in 1996. Kristin returned to Mount Vernon and became an adjunct faculty member in the art department at Skagit Valley College in 1996 where she has been an ongoing member of the art department ever since. As well as teaching, Kristin is a working artist with her own design and printmaking business with her focus on screen-printed textiles and photography. Additionally, Kristin and her husband, Chris Theiss, are working on a collection of ceramics and textiles that is a marriage of form & surface. Kristin's work has been featured in museum shops, boutiques, private collections, publications, and gallery exhibitions throughout the world. Most recently, Kristin's designs were featured in the UPPERCASE Magazine (Issue41), Surface Patten Design Guide 2019. She was also a featured artist in the book, "STITCH*ILLO", the UPPERCASE Encyclopedia of Inspiration. In 2005, Kristin began an ongoing series of drawings using her sewing machine as a drawing tool. Using thread, Kristin uses "free-motion" sewing, creating a continuous line drawing on heavy canvas. This technique is her preferred form of drawing because it offers the least amount of control, capturing spontaneity and chance. Her most recent thread drawings have been on top of watercolor paintings on heavy canvas. Her painting is light in color and her thread offers a dark continuous line. A trademark of these drawings is the loose thread that starts and finishes the piece. Kristin often uses her thread drawn images when creating her textile designs.