

All About Photo Announces the Winner of November 2020 Solo Exhibition

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SPIN CLUB TAPESTRY

ASTRID REISCHWITZ

All About Photo is thrilled to present *Spin Club Tapestry* by the German photographer Astrid Reischwitz.

Part of the exclusive online showroom developed by All About Photo, this exhibition is on view for the entire month of November 2020 and includes nineteen photographs from the project *Spin Club Tapestry* which showcase archival pigment print with unique embroidery by Astrid Reischwitz.

Ann Jastrab, the Executive Director at the Center for Photographic Art (CPA) in Carmel, California. was the curator for this month exhibition.



© Astrid Reischwitz

Secrets - Spin Club tablecloths, napkins and wall hangings (some dating back to 1799) have been passed down from generation to generation. By following the stitches in these fabrics, I follow a path through the lives of my ancestors - their layout of a perfect pattern and the mistakes they made. Along the way, I add my own mistakes.

Spin Club Tapestry

An exploration of memory

"I grew up in a small farming village in Northern Germany. A village that is bound to its history and that stands out through its traditions even today. Long ago, village women met regularly in "Spinneklumps" (Spin Clubs) to spin wool, embroider, and stitch fabrics for their homes. I imagine their conversations as they worked, the beautiful stories that lifted their spirits, as well as the stories of sadness, sorrow and loss. In modern times, village women continued to meet in this tradition, but shared stories over coffee and cake instead of needlework. These close-knit groups of women often stayed together until their death. In this series, my composite images take the form of tapestries, combining images of embroidered Spin Club fabrics with new and old photographs from the village. I connect the present and the past by re-creating and re-imagining pieces of the embroidery. Spin Club tablecloths, napkins and wall hangings (some dating back to 1799) have been passed down from generation to generation. By following the stitches in these fabrics, I follow a path through the lives of my ancestors - their layout of a perfect pattern and the mistakes they made. Along the way, I add my own mistakes. The fabrics also reveal the passage of time, stained and distorted after sometimes decades of use. The patterns I have stitched myself into the paper are only abstractions of the original Spin Club designs, fragments of memory. After all, memory is fleeting, and changed forever in the act of recollection. Sometimes the stitching is incomplete, creating an invitation for future generations. Every decision we make is influenced by our history, our environment, and the society we live in. The tapestry of my life belongs to me but is stitched through with the beauty and heartache of past generations." - Astrid Reischwitz

In this moment of great uncertainty and turmoil, these online Solo Exhibitions aim to continue to connect audiences and artists, building on our beliefs that access to art and culture is a right and not a privilege and that artists' voices should be heard. It is a platform to help photographers pursue their visions, their dreams and their projects.

With our new online showroom space, we've placed All About Photo's role as a supporter and amplifier of creative ideas.



© Astrid Reischwitz

Shadow and Light - I grew up in a small farming village in Northern Germany. A village that is bound to its history and that stands out through its traditions even today. Long ago, village women met regularly in "Spinneklumps" (Spin Clubs) to spin wool, embroider, and stitch fabrics for their homes. I imagine their conversations as they worked, the beautiful stories that lifted their spirits, as well as the stories of sadness, sorrow and loss.



© Astrid Reischwitz

Filling the Blank - In this series, my composite images take the form of tapestries, combining images of embroidered Spin Club fabrics with new and old photographs from the village. I connect the present and the past by re-creating and re-imagining pieces of the embroidery. By adding my own embroidery to the artwork, I reclaim the history of these village women and my own history.



© Astrid Reischwitz

A Pleasure to Give Liver - How can I overcome the barrier of memory, the barrier of time and how did this culture influence me? Is culture a barrier by itself?



© Astrid Reischwitz

Four Did Not Return - The fabrics also reveal the passage of time, stained and distorted after sometimes decades of use. The patterns I have stitched myself into the paper are only abstractions of the original Spin Club designs, fragments of memory. After all, memory is fleeting, and changed forever in the act of recollection.



© Astrid Reischwitz

Window - Sometimes the stitching is incomplete, creating an invitation for future generations.



© Astrid Reischwitz

After the Third Bomb - *Everyday life continued for the women, even at the height of war. The backside of the fabric reveals a side of life that is not always visible, including negative aspects that one might encounter, but also reflects the personality of the person who crafted the embroidery.*



© Astrid Reischwitz

Daughter of Thistles - When these village women met in their Spin Club, what conversations did they have? I'm sure they talked about events that define life, especially in a small village; a birth, a wedding, a funeral. Their secrets? Perhaps politics and the situation of women in their society. Did they feel trapped by the culture of their tight knit community?



© Astrid Reischwitz
Glowing



© Astrid Reischwitz
Blanket of Time



© Astrid Reischwitz

The Bird of Paradise Lost Its Crown - For centuries, women used the symbolism in their embroidery as a form to express themselves. They often include deep religious and devoted themes like the "tree of life" or "the bird of paradise".



© Astrid Reischwitz

The Fall of the Double-Headed-Eagle - The double-headed eagle is a symbol of power and dominion. Here the eagle is on the ground and deconstructed.



© Astrid Reischwitz

1st Memory - Every decision we make is influenced by our history, our environment, and the society we live in. The tapestry of my life belongs to me but is stitched through with the beauty and heartache of past generations.



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Trapped

And more on our website:

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