



“Sewing is a somewhat violent process that renders a soft and delicate piece of work. The puncturing and pulling resonates with my feelings regarding the ebb and flow of relationships and maintaining connections.



## Gemma Burgio - [www.aha-fineart.com](http://www.aha-fineart.com)

### Artist Statement

Throughout my adult life, I have created artwork that has focused on interpersonal relationships, through the lens of both an intimate and personal perspective, as well as a universal experience. While obtaining my BFA in photography at Pratt Institute (2007), my exploration in imagery was based mainly within my own emotional spectrum and personal experiences. These photographs conveyed questions regarding the intimacy and distance that simultaneously exists within the closest of relationships.

When I created the painting of the green woman (Untitled, 2014), I was working as an Art Therapist with high-risk adolescents in a day-treatment setting in NYC. It was very difficult work, dealing with a lot of trauma, anger and loss and it was a struggle to see the small, daily progress being made. I utilized this painting not only as an outlet for the overwhelming feelings I experienced working there, but as a reminder that beautiful things can still grow out of difficult and painful experiences and that so many people have an unspoken resilience that carries them through.

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After returning to school to become an Art Therapist (SVA, 2011), much of my artwork has shifted to help externalize and identify the emotions that I encounter in others. Trying to meet people with a heightened sense of empathy and hold their personal perspectives as a valid truth demands a means to differentiate their emotional experiences from my own.

Creating artwork is a process that allows me to do this in a very tangible manner and the use of less finite or structured materials is key. As a result, my artwork has expanded to varying mediums including embroidery, painting, sculpture and drawing. It permits more room for subconscious content to be brought to the surface in a very organic manner.

Embroidery exemplifies this and remains very connected to my work with interpersonal relationships. Sewing is a somewhat violent process that renders a soft and delicate piece of work. The puncturing and pulling resonates with my feelings regarding the ebb and flow of relationships and maintaining connections.

## Education

Institute for Contemporary Psychotherapy CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF ANOREXIA AND BULIMIA / 2015-17

Candidate for Post-Graduate Training Program, Specializing in the treatment of Eating Disorders

School of Visual Arts MASTERS OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES ART THERAPY PROGRAM / 2009-11

Specialization in Clinical and Challenged Populations, Focus on Developmental Trauma

Pratt Institute BFA PHOTOGRAPHY MAJOR / ART HISTORY MINOR / 2003-07

Awards: President's List, Pratt Circle, Dreves Art and Design Scholarship

## Exhibitions and Lectures

2016 Seen And Heard, School of Visual Arts Lecture, New York, NY

2015 Taut, School of Visual Arts, Alumni Residency Program and Exhibition, New York, NY

2014 Practice and Presence, The Living Gallery, Curator and Group Show Participant, Brooklyn, NY

2011 Creating Dialogue, School of Visual Arts, New York, NY

2010 Counterbalance, School of Visual Arts, New York, NY

2009 Lineage, Pochron Studios, Brooklyn, NY

2008 Standard for the People, Pochron Studios, Brooklyn, NY

2007 59 Pages, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY