

Kirstie Macleod

Visual Artist, Performance Artist, Costume Designer

Macleod exhibits a wide spectrum of works that pay homage to this intricate skill - the primary focus of the artist's practice [embroidery] - which has become the subject of study in many distinguished needlepoint bodies including the Royal School of Needlework.

Paul Black, 2015

Kirstie Macleod studied Textile Design at Bristol School of Art before completing an MA in Visual Language & Performance at Wimbledon School of Art. She has exhibited widely; international shows have included Art Dubai (2009) where she was commissioned by Art Dubai and funded by the British Council to create *Barocco*. A decade-long embroidery project that is centred around a single red dress. Since 2009, the dress has travelled around the world being continuously embroidered and added to by 50 different participants to date. Its most recent contributors include the Bedouin Fanasina collective, a group of female embroiderers based in Egypt's Sinai who provide economic independence and education to women in the region. Taken from the ancient Portuguese word for a "rough or imperfect pearl", *Barocco* is a performance piece where Kirstie Macleod sits within a central perspex cube wearing and embroidering the ornate red dress that fills the tiny space around her.

Elements of *Barocco* have been worked on by embroiderers around the globe until the dress is so heavily decorated that the dress and its bodice will soon be able to stand up on its own as a sculptural exhibit within its Perspex cube. Individually delicate and decorative, the unique stitches add layers and layers of expression that create the strong and rigid armour of the art piece that is the *Barocco* dress. The piece makes tangible the interplay through embroidery between a variety of cultures, each with their own identity and experience, who express themselves through their stitches.

Kirstie's work has been exhibited in the Royal Academy of Arts (2014) and The Barbican (2008) in London, she has received many art prizes including the *Premio Valcellina Award* for Textiles, Italy. Her work can be seen in many notable private and commercial collections in London, and abroad.

Exploring issues of identity, the subconscious and the passage of time, Kirstie's work seeks to articulate specific events and interactions through a kaleidoscopic, emotion led vision. Her work embodies dreamlike states, often using hidden codes and mythical symbolism to portray elements of the unconscious mind.

Having trained in both Fine Art and theatrical disciplines, the works form a diverse portfolio comprising photography, film, painting, textile based constructions and large scale - often immersive performance installations.