

Biography

Monica Bonadies Hansel is a native of Palm Beach County, Florida, and learned to knit at the age of 9 from her paternal grandmother. After dabbling in architecture school, she studied mechanical engineering at the University of Central Florida and graduated with a bachelors degree shortly followed by a masters with a specialty in energy systems. She rediscovered her love for fiber art in 2008 while finishing her undergraduate degree and from there began picking apart patterns, spinning her own yarn, and knitting in the cafeteria on lunch breaks at work. Her day to day work focuses on power plants while her fiber art reflects her love of engineering and the sciences.

Artist Statement

I knit, crochet, and spin to ground myself. It is said that these techniques, used over hundreds of years, have become embedded in our DNA. So through the process of knitting a garment, I connect with my ancestors along with legions of women and men who turned heels, made hats, or elaborately cabled sweaters to identify their loved ones in a shipwreck. Thankfully, my creations identify the wearer as someone who perhaps has a low air conditioning temperature in their office rather than an ill-fated sailor. Along with a connection to crafters around the world, my work is a way for me to commemorate the memories of my two grandmothers and great-grandfather who knitted and continue their legacy.

My designs are inspired by the laws of nature and the forms found in the sciences and engineering. Just as reality is bounded by physical laws, knitting and crocheting are bound by specific stitch forms. These forms can exact 45 degree angles, produce a circle, or something as simple as a rectangle. This is not even considering the inclusion of colors or texture. Using these basic forms, I work to represent the meeting of art and science.

Description of the Work

“Wave” will represent a visual of several musical notes - G, E, C, and G. The sound wave is knitted into a scarf using a technique that shows the waveform when the scarf is tilted just so. Just as one looks closely at the Campanile and the bells within the tower are revealed, one must look closely to see the waveform. And, naturally, the colors must be Berkeley Blue and California Gold!