

The Poetry of Stitch
Sunbury Embroidery Gallery, 2025

Rachel Quarmby

Born in England, Rachel studied constructed textiles in Manchester College of Art receiving a BA Honours Degree. Her early career was in sculpture installations for public buildings. In 1992 she moved to France, where her love of textiles motivated her to begin her career in costume, designing for ballet and contemporary dance for opera houses internationally. Her love of dance and movement in costume continues, as in the recent work for New York City Ballet/Pontus Lidberg.

Her work progressed into film where her interest in space suit and science fiction costumes is called upon by feature film and publicity. The distressing and ageing of costumes and techniques of dyeing fabric by hand are a particular passion.

Find out more: rachelquarmby.com

Fish

1986

machine embroidered on vanishing muslin



Creative Prompt

Whilst some people eat fish many others believe we should not out of respect for animals. Imagine the most incredible meal you would eat if you could. Bring attention to every detail, from the lighting to the view and of course to each dish. Using our senses can make poems dynamic and rich for others, invoking memories, through for example, the smell of onion or the sounds of a sizzling grill. What makes you hungry, what attracts or repels you? Use food as your inspiration for a poem, remembering touch, sound, smell, look and taste.