

# All Stitched Up



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An International Artist Book Exhibition

September 3rd - December 11th, 2019

Collins Memorial Library | University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA  
Curated by Catherine Alice Michaelis, Jane A. Carlin, & Diana Weymar

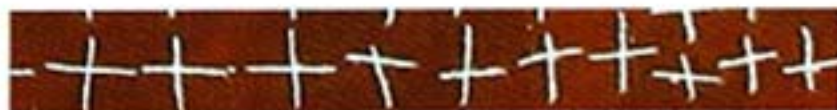
## Introduction

In 2018 the *All Stitched Up* curatorial team sent out an international call for artist book submissions. It read, in part:

*All Stitched Up* is asking for submissions of artists' books from around the globe where stitching is a featured element. They may be visible stitches for the binding, text, or images, or any technique that leaves evidence of stitches. To stitch is to join together, to mend, or fasten as with stitches – to sew. To stitch is to bring together fabric, paper, wounds of the body, or cultural divides. Stitching can be an act of healing, hope, practicality, creativity, and revolution. *All Stitched Up* recognizes and celebrates the work of book artists' where stitching has become an integral part of the visual design. We are particularly (but not solely) interested in works that showcase collaboration and focus on building a sense of shared community. That may include collaboration between two or more artists, two or more communities, or crowd-sourced projects. Sewing that joins people and ideas link us to historical social and political sewing circles from the abolitionist movement of the 1800s, to the corporate resistant DIY movement kindled by the Riots Grrrls in the 1990s, to the knitting collectives of today that focus on the anti-war, pro-science, and pro-choice movements. In addition, you may draw inspiration from the embroidered books of the Victorian period, the rise of needlecrafts during the Arts & Crafts period, and family traditions of sewing by machine or hand stitching.

In response to our call for submissions, over 105 artists from eleven countries submitted a combination of 200 books and proposals for consideration. This large response revealed a passion many artists have for needle and thread and the themes of this show. We are overjoyed and grateful. Regretfully, time and space limited our selection to 57 submitted pieces.

We thank all who made and sent us work, shared our call, and celebrate the stitchery of artists everywhere.



**Debra Disman**

Santa Monica, California, United States

***Prairie***

*Prairie* uses stitching to express, communicate and describe the prairieland of the Midwest where I grew up. Stitches define the book's design and subject, changing direction and flowing into unstitched cords, which add another dimension to the piece. Through the rough texture of the jute cord, the undulating lines of stitching and the inner spaces revealed through the book's structure, the viewer is transported into another time where the lines of grasses, hills and fields depict a place that has been funneled through memory and maybe never was, but exists now through the magic of the stitch.



**About this book**

Materials: book and paper board, paper,

jute cord

Size: 10.25"x45"x15.25"

Year: 2018

Unique

Photographs by: Elon Schoenholz

Photography



Debra is a Los Angeles-based artist working in the form of and inspired by the book. She works both as a solo practitioner and in the public sphere of community engagement. As a maker and teaching artist, she strives to create work and projects that push the boundaries of the book into new forms and materials.

Debra Disman

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