

Crochet in Abstraction

by Cristina Golubovich

I began this series with the intent to document the progression and development of a large-scale crochet project. From kindergarten through eighth grade, I attended a Waldorf school that emphasized artistic skills, including knitting and crocheting. But as I moved into high school, my interests shifted; photography became my primary creative outlet, and I left handwork behind for years. It wasn't until my junior year of college, when I was quarantined with COVID, that I picked it up again. I started small, crocheting a scarf for my newborn cousin. Then came hats, bags, holders, and even a tank top (though far from perfect).

Later that year, when this project was introduced in my advanced lighting class, I saw an opportunity to push myself beyond simple accessories. I wanted to create something more intricate, something ambitious. As I shaped my vision, I drew inspiration from an art history course I had taken, *Politics of Abstraction*, which explored various movements from the 1950s to the 1990s. One of my primary influences became the Arts and Crafts movement, which celebrated many female artists' approach to handmade craftsmanship, use of natural materials and pushing against mass production of goods. My fascination with this wave bled into my filmmaking, prompting me to create *The Act of Sewing and the Female Experience*. The progression commentary perpetuated by the movement, specifically in response to misogyny and gendered segregation in society, inspired me to intertwine these philosophies into project.

Originally, I envisioned this project as a contrast between documentary-style progress images with an editorial, experimental edge. But, after capturing the first shots, I felt uninspired—the images didn't challenge my creativity. I began distorting and combining the images, transforming them into something unusual for me. Beginning as a domesticated photographic documentation evolved into a fusion of imagery and digital manipulation. The process became intuitive; I conceptualized each step while crocheting, letting the medium itself guide. At its core, this project reflects a return to something deeply held within me. Art has shaped my life since childhood, and this series enhanced the tactile, visual, and conceptual joy of the medium.