



Dara Engler



Artist Statement

One Foot in the Past is an exploration of past places, current worry. The rate of change has increased rapidly in our world. We imagined our futures and now those futures seem unpredictable. Upheaval is the new normal and reminiscing has become escapism. Some of these pieces revisit the past— exploring memory, wandering illogically through childhood homes and old apartments, focusing on vignettes and moments of significance. Others capture the present-day objects in embroidery, serving as a slow appreciation of the here and now. As the past gets further away, we can no longer keep a foot in both the past and present. This homage to prior safe spaces and exploration of existing objects is a step toward letting go, confronting anxiety, and being present.

Biography

Dara Engler received her Master of Fine Arts from Indiana University, Bloomington and her Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of New Hampshire. She was awarded a Joan Mitchell Foundation MFA Grant, followed by a recipient group show at the Cue Art Foundation in Chelsea. Dara has been included in *New American Paintings* and *Manifest's International Drawing Annual* and has received fellowships to attend the Vermont Studio Center, Millay Colony, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Saltonstall Foundation, and Joan Mitchell Center residencies. Her work has been shown nationally in galleries and museums. She teaches painting and drawing at Ithaca College.