



WELCOME TO THE GARDEN

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→ Exhibition
8 August — 2 September

Unsprung janno



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SPRING

UNSPRUNG
janno

Artist Statement

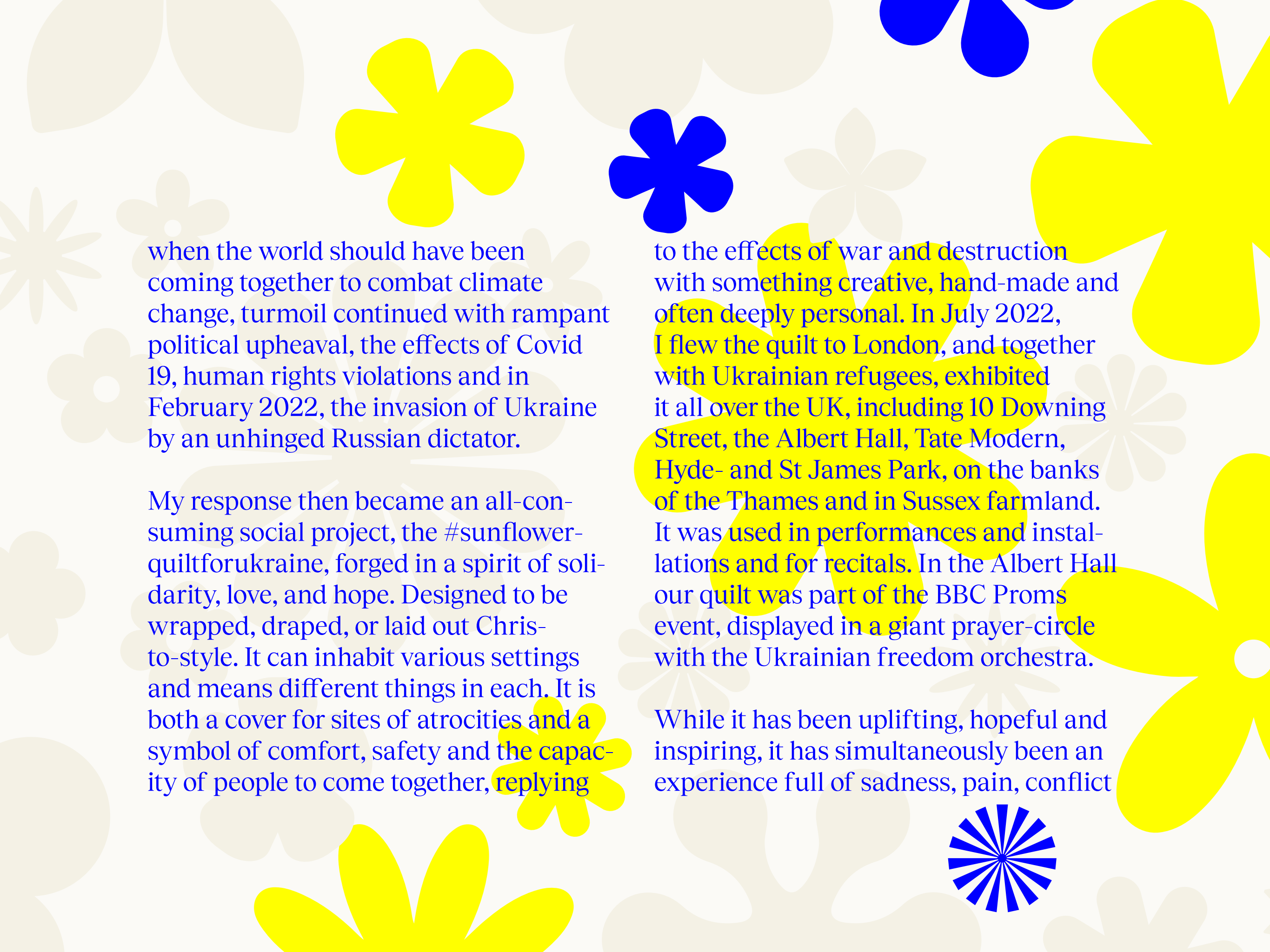
—janno

edited by Rose Lang

It has been a very strange time.

The title of this exhibition, *Unsprung* is a play on 'spring' and its connotations of hope, metaphor, new life, and new beginnings. It is a continuation and exploration of my past artistic themes and metaphors including the cocoon, elephant, and gorilla. My work always concerns the seeking and creation of safe spaces and is motivated by pleas to look after each other and to protect nature in the great unravelling that seems to be the current state of the world.

Since my 2021 solo exhibition, *Making Nonsense*, the world has continued its crazy upside-down trajectory. At a time

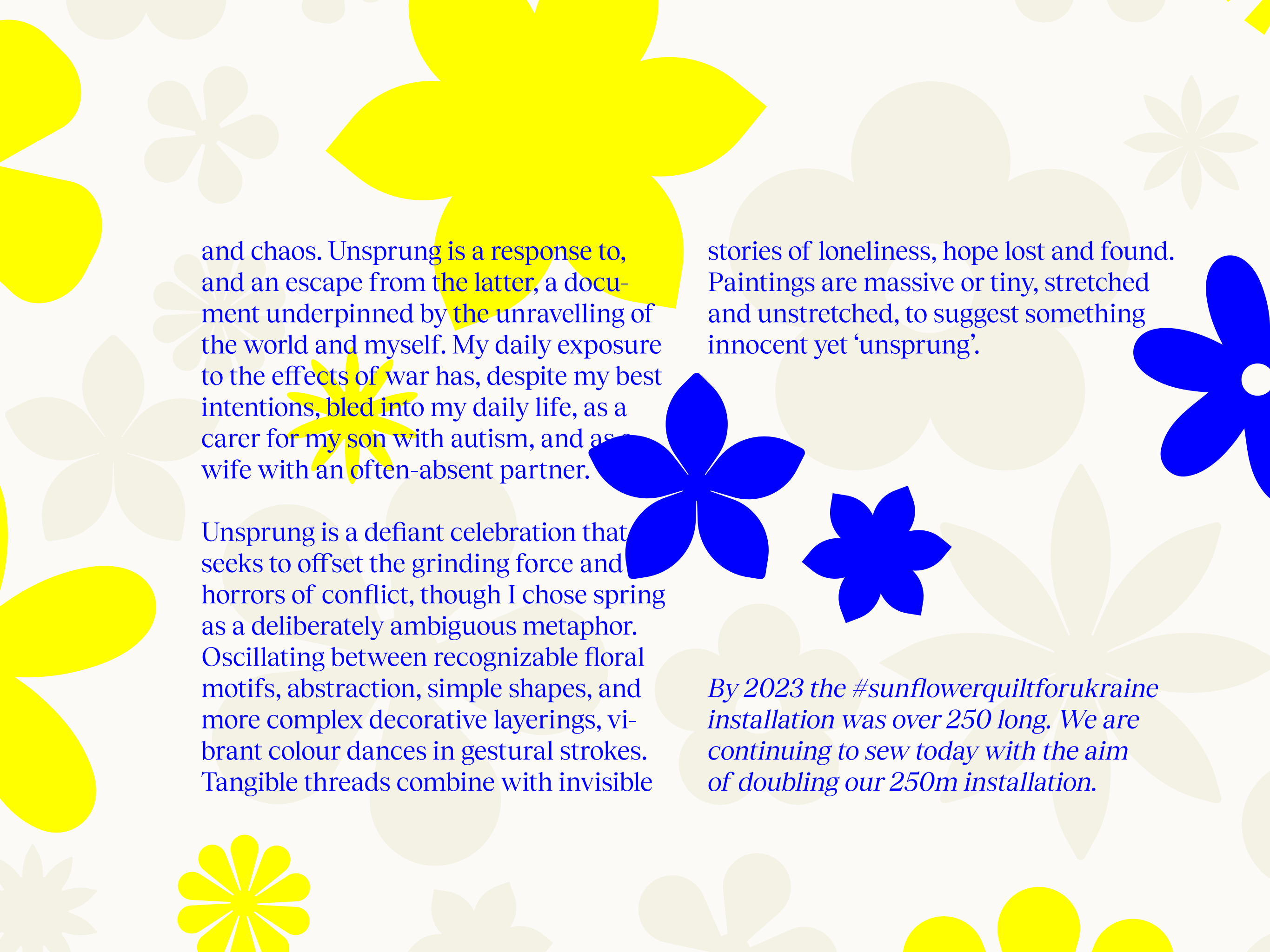


when the world should have been coming together to combat climate change, turmoil continued with rampant political upheaval, the effects of Covid 19, human rights violations and in February 2022, the invasion of Ukraine by an unhinged Russian dictator.

My response then became an all-consuming social project, the #sunflower-quiltforukraine, forged in a spirit of solidarity, love, and hope. Designed to be wrapped, draped, or laid out Christo-style. It can inhabit various settings and means different things in each. It is both a cover for sites of atrocities and a symbol of comfort, safety and the capacity of people to come together, replying

to the effects of war and destruction with something creative, hand-made and often deeply personal. In July 2022, I flew the quilt to London, and together with Ukrainian refugees, exhibited it all over the UK, including 10 Downing Street, the Albert Hall, Tate Modern, Hyde- and St James Park, on the banks of the Thames and in Sussex farmland. It was used in performances and installations and for recitals. In the Albert Hall our quilt was part of the BBC Proms event, displayed in a giant prayer-circle with the Ukrainian freedom orchestra.

While it has been uplifting, hopeful and inspiring, it has simultaneously been an experience full of sadness, pain, conflict

The background features a repeating pattern of stylized flowers in yellow and blue. The flowers vary in size and orientation, creating a vibrant and textured backdrop. The text is overlaid on this pattern.

and chaos. Unsprung is a response to, and an escape from the latter, a document underpinned by the unravelling of the world and myself. My daily exposure to the effects of war has, despite my best intentions, bled into my daily life, as a carer for my son with autism, and as a wife with an often-absent partner.

Unsprung is a defiant celebration that seeks to offset the grinding force and horrors of conflict, though I chose spring as a deliberately ambiguous metaphor. Oscillating between recognizable floral motifs, abstraction, simple shapes, and more complex decorative layerings, vibrant colour dances in gestural strokes. Tangible threads combine with invisible

stories of loneliness, hope lost and found. Paintings are massive or tiny, stretched and unstretched, to suggest something innocent yet 'unsprung'.

By 2023 the #sunflowerquiltforukraine installation was over 250 long. We are continuing to sew today with the aim of doubling our 250m installation.

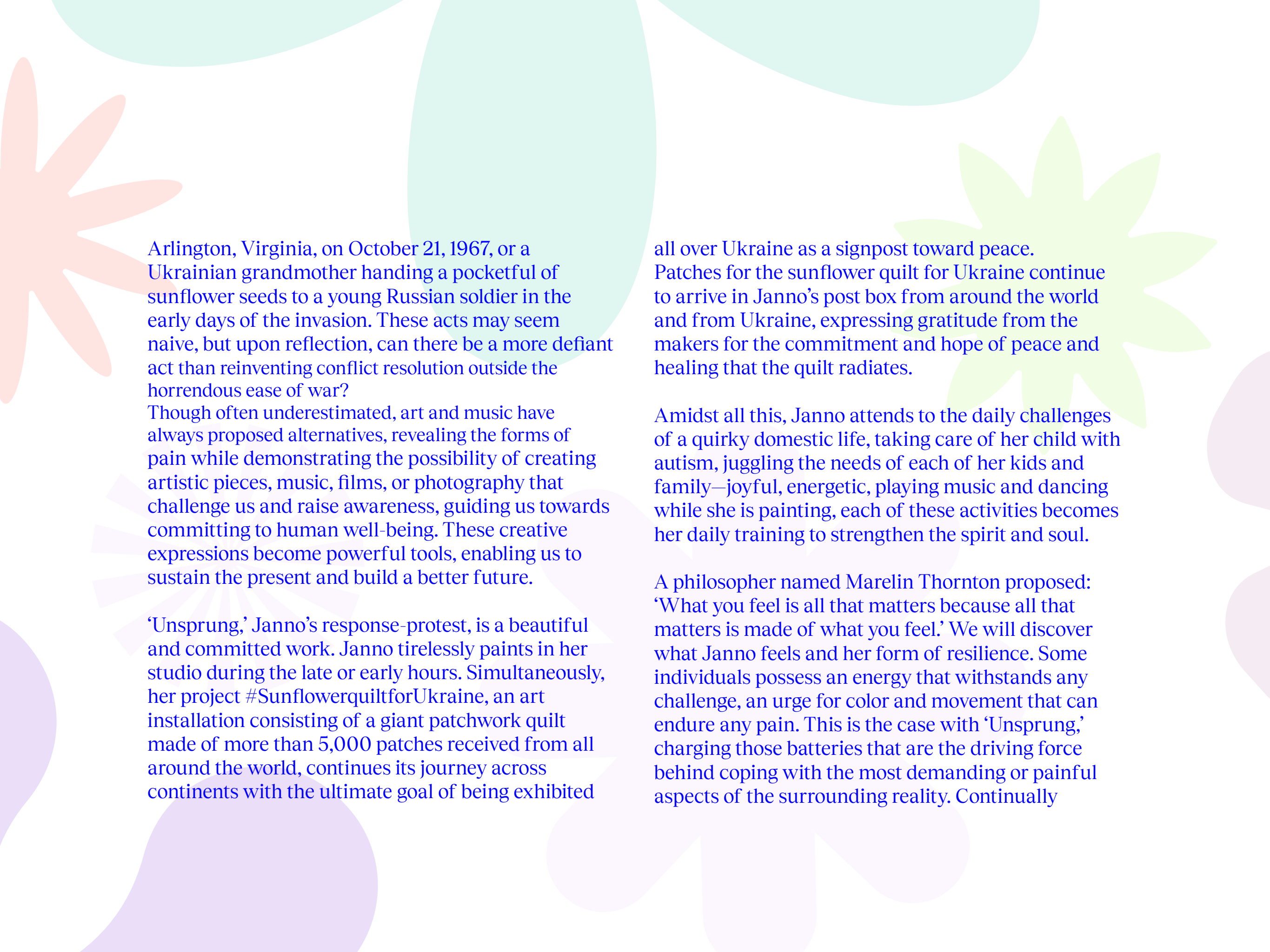
Unsprung power

—caro mikalef

As ‘Flower Power’ was the slogan used by hippies in the late sixties and early seventies to symbolize the ideology of peaceful resistance and non-violence, we could call Janno’s latest work ‘a flower power exhibition.’

It's evident that the viewer will find a diversity of flowers in the paintings, ranging from large-scale and total abstraction to more detailed and iconic representations. However, the *power* of these flowers doesn't only lie in their exploited beauty, visceral brushstrokes following the rhythm of the music she plays while painting, nor in the vibrant palettes. Similar to the ‘Flower Power’, which originated in 1960s California as a protest movement against the Vietnam War, Janno's *Unsprung* flowers serve as her form of protest against the Russian invasion and the triggering of war in Ukraine.

Protest can take many forms—violent, angry, and private—but it can also be peaceful, affirmative, public, and inclusive. Let's remember a prototypical scene: a protester offering a flower to military police during an anti-Vietnam War demonstration in



Arlington, Virginia, on October 21, 1967, or a Ukrainian grandmother handing a pocketful of sunflower seeds to a young Russian soldier in the early days of the invasion. These acts may seem naive, but upon reflection, can there be a more defiant act than reinventing conflict resolution outside the horrendous ease of war?

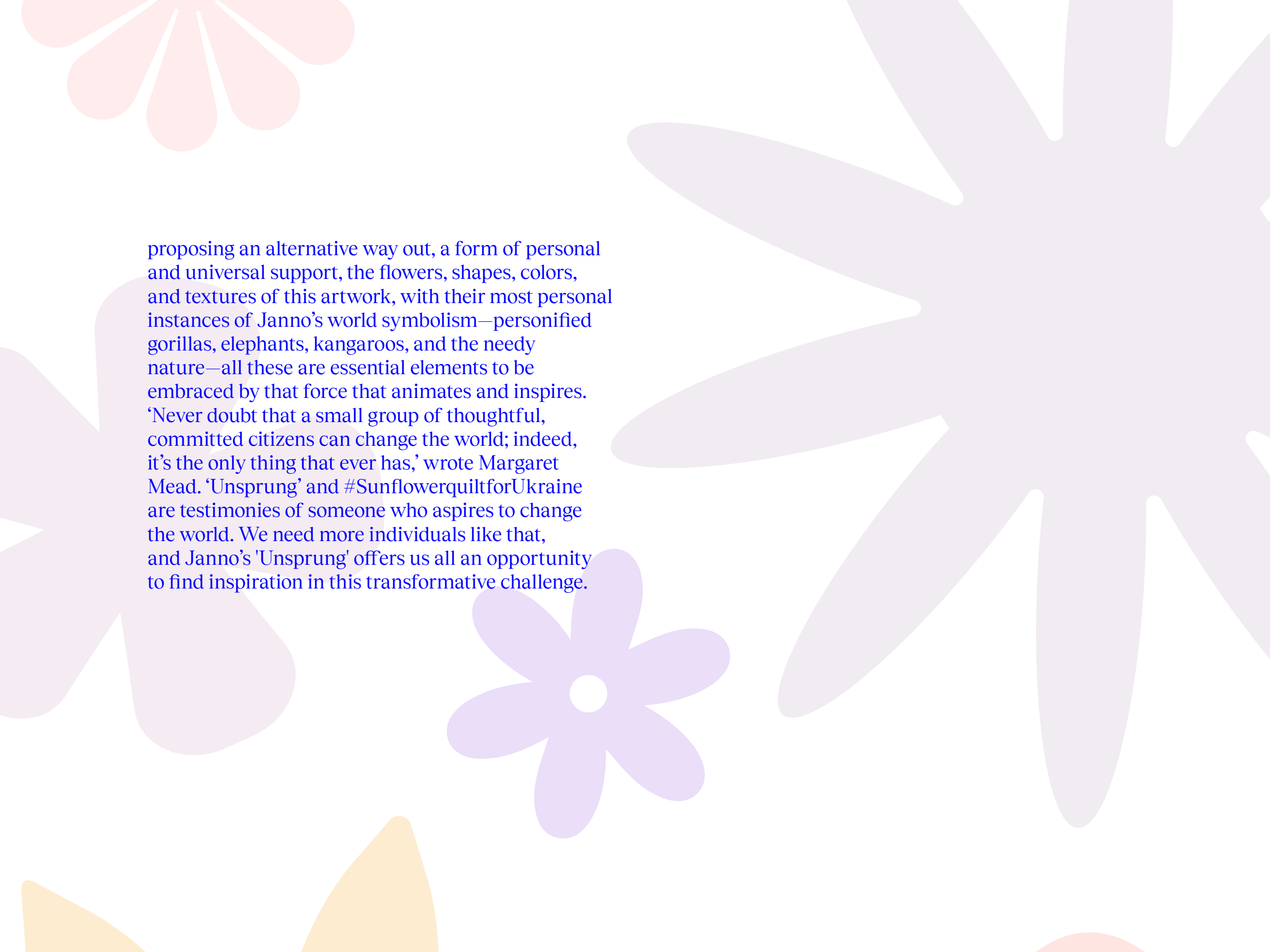
Though often underestimated, art and music have always proposed alternatives, revealing the forms of pain while demonstrating the possibility of creating artistic pieces, music, films, or photography that challenge us and raise awareness, guiding us towards committing to human well-being. These creative expressions become powerful tools, enabling us to sustain the present and build a better future.

‘Unsprung,’ Janno’s response-protest, is a beautiful and committed work. Janno tirelessly paints in her studio during the late or early hours. Simultaneously, her project #SunflowerquiltforUkraine, an art installation consisting of a giant patchwork quilt made of more than 5,000 patches received from all around the world, continues its journey across continents with the ultimate goal of being exhibited

all over Ukraine as a signpost toward peace. Patches for the sunflower quilt for Ukraine continue to arrive in Janno’s post box from around the world and from Ukraine, expressing gratitude from the makers for the commitment and hope of peace and healing that the quilt radiates.

Amidst all this, Janno attends to the daily challenges of a quirky domestic life, taking care of her child with autism, juggling the needs of each of her kids and family—joyful, energetic, playing music and dancing while she is painting, each of these activities becomes her daily training to strengthen the spirit and soul.

A philosopher named Marelina Thornton proposed: ‘What you feel is all that matters because all that matters is made of what you feel.’ We will discover what Janno feels and her form of resilience. Some individuals possess an energy that withstands any challenge, an urge for color and movement that can endure any pain. This is the case with ‘Unsprung,’ charging those batteries that are the driving force behind coping with the most demanding or painful aspects of the surrounding reality. Continually



proposing an alternative way out, a form of personal and universal support, the flowers, shapes, colors, and textures of this artwork, with their most personal instances of Janno's world symbolism—personified gorillas, elephants, kangaroos, and the needy nature—all these are essential elements to be embraced by that force that animates and inspires. 'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has,' wrote Margaret Mead. 'Unsprung' and #SunflowerquiltforUkraine are testimonies of someone who aspires to change the world. We need more individuals like that, and Janno's 'Unsprung' offers us all an opportunity to find inspiration in this transformative challenge.

W A R R I

W O R R I



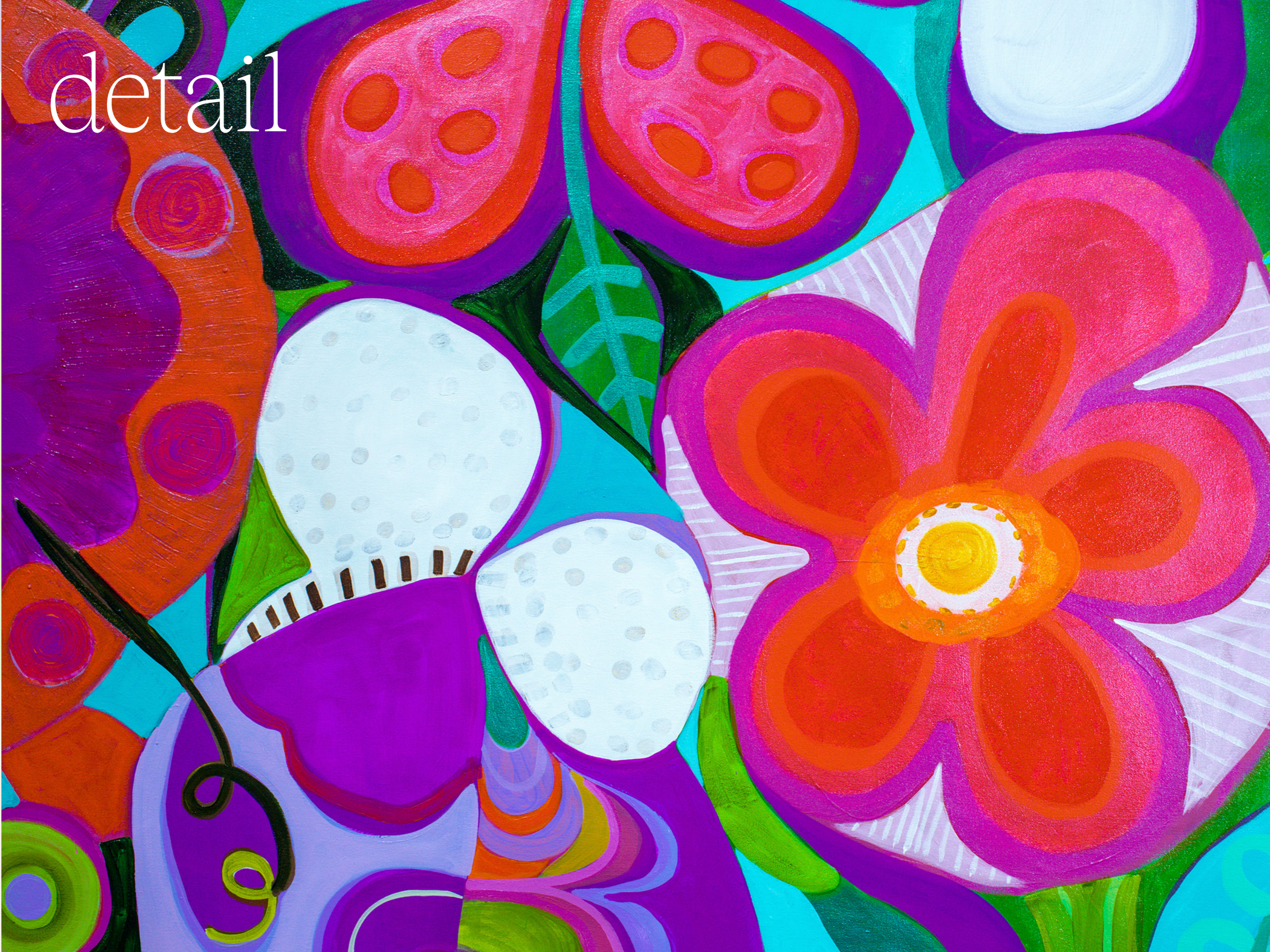
● means SOLD



1 •
Groovy Mama
215 cm x 215 cm mixed media , on
unstretched canvas, and stitching.



detail





2 •
peace baby flower power
183 cm x 183 cm
acrylic on canvas

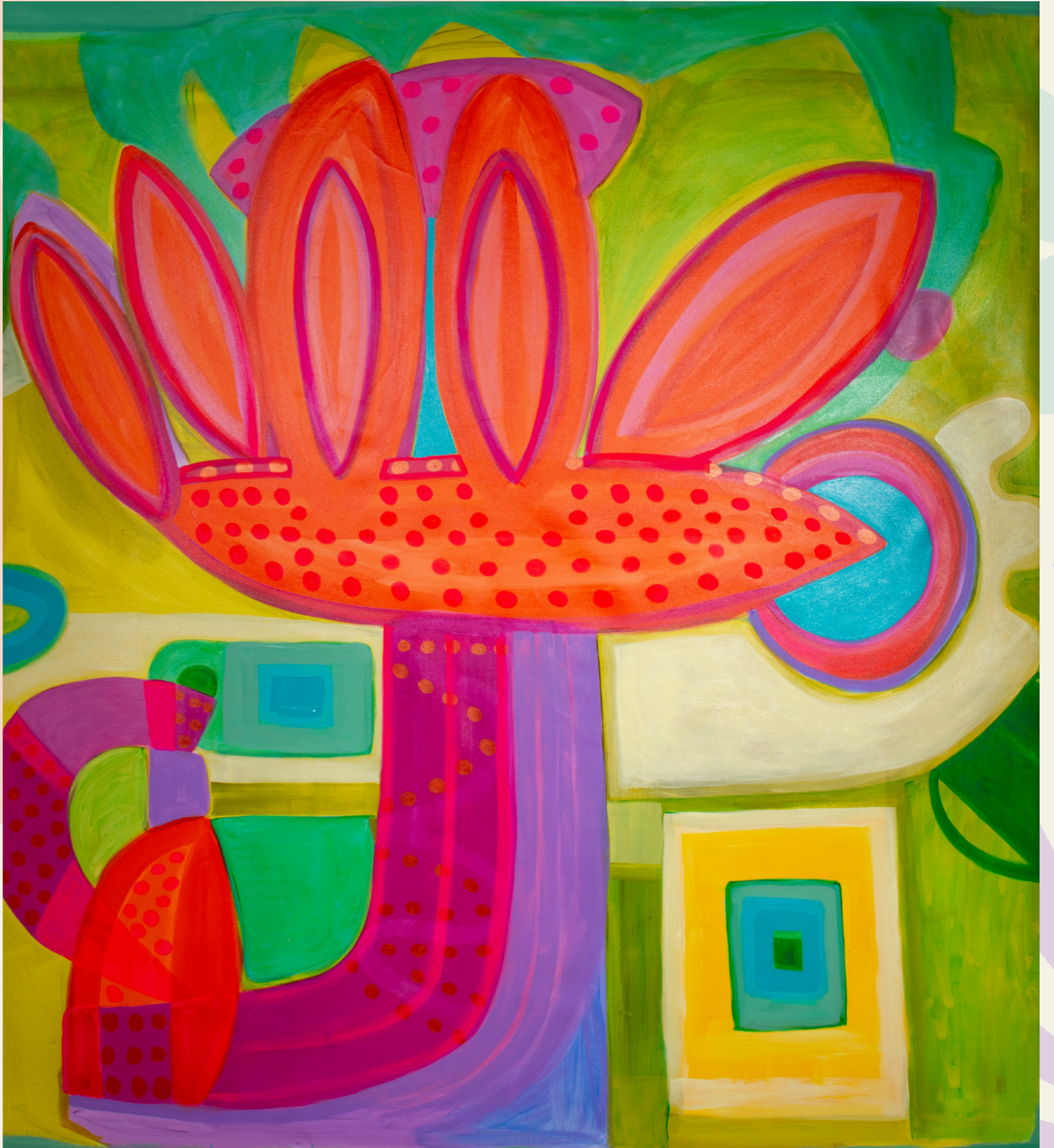
3 ●
Love shack
3.8 m approx, mixed media, hand stitching
on linen, Japanese Obi



detail



4
pink spots orange flower
200 cm x 190 cm acrylic on canvas





5
New flower
183 cm x 183 cm mixed media on canvas,
and stitching.

detail



6
Loosey Lucy
183 cm x 183 cm acrylic on canvas.



7

Lindy Hop

approx 215 cm x 195 cm mixed media, on unstretched canvas, and stitching.





8
Upside down
183 cm x 183 cm acrylic on canvas.



9
unsprung fringe
183 cm x 183 cm mixed media, on canvas,
handstitching and fringe

10
hot violet
approx 270 cm x 215 cm, mixed media,
japanese obi on unstretched canvas,
hand stitching.



detail



11 •
Story of the kangaroo, swan
and the platypus
approx 199cm x 199 cm mixed media
hand stitching on canvas





12 •
Home
183cm x183 cm canvas mixed media.

13
Keepsafe
199 cm x 199 cm acrylic
and mixed media on canvas.



14

brave girl hippie flower
183 cm x 183 cm mixed media,
on canvas, and stitching.



15
orange flower power
183 cm x 183 cm mixed media,
on canvas, and stitching.





16 •
big white
183 cm x 183 cm, acrylic
and mixed media on canvas.

detail





17
single white flower
183 cm x 183 cm acrylic
and mixed media on canvas.



detail



18
sunflowers for Ukraine with Granny
183 cm x 183 cm mixed media on canvas





19
Sunflowers
183 cm x 183 cm, acrylic on canvas.

detail



20
kangaroo green sun
183 cm x 183 cm, acrylic on canvas.





21 •

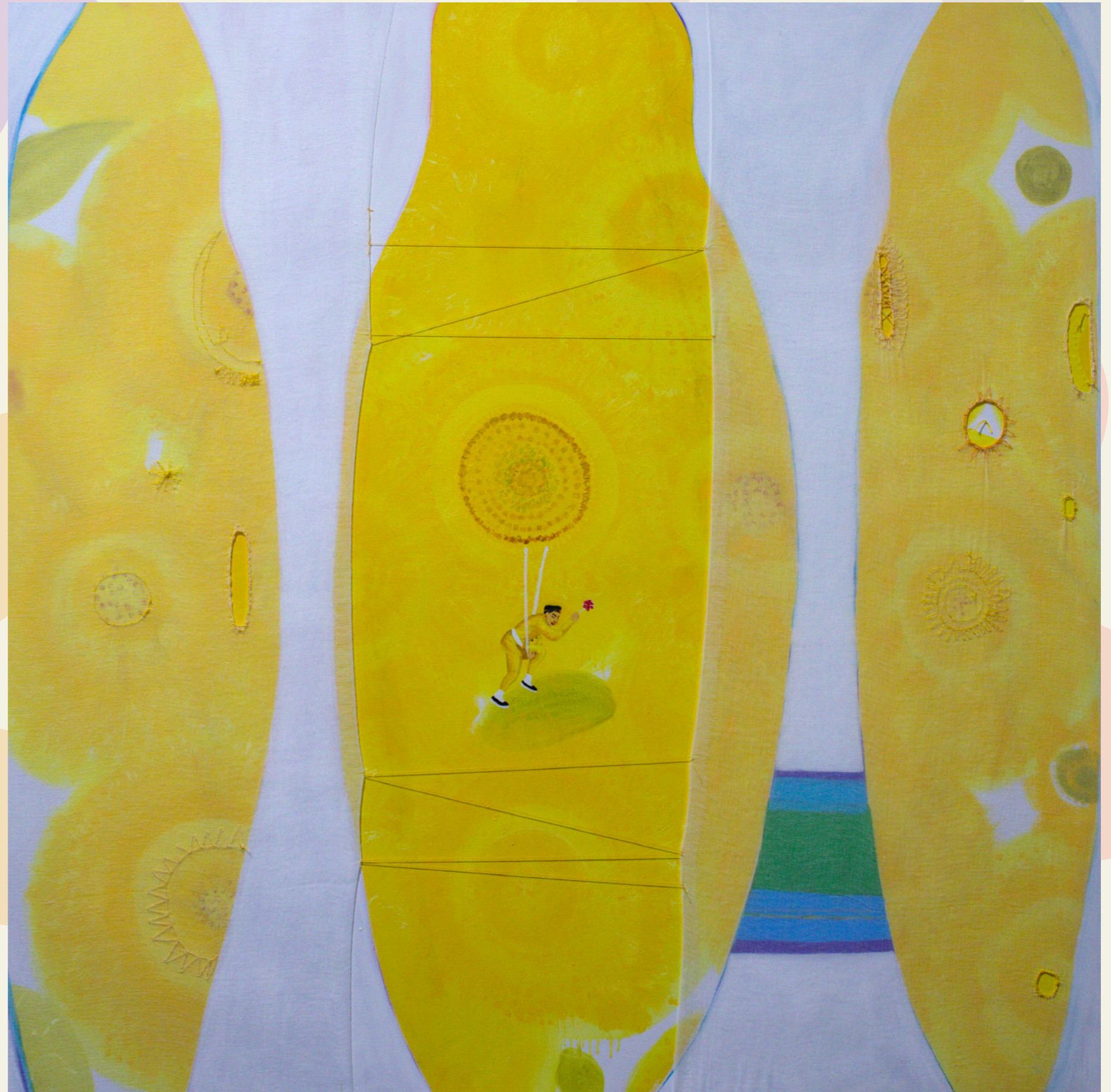
totems

183 cm x183 cm, mixed media, muslin,
hand stitching on canvas.

22

mischief maker in the sunflowers

183 cm x 183 cm, mixed media, muslin,
hand stitching on canvas.



23 •

Babushka cocoons

183 cm x183 cm, mixed media, muslin,
hand stitching on canvas.



IN

SEAR

LEAP





24
large installation hanging metaphors
4.87 m x 220 cm acrylic on canvas,
hand stitching.

SMALL

WORLD



25 •
Afghani girl
40 cm x 60 cm
mixed media and stitching.



26 •
landscape series
mixed media and stitching.
various dimensions
15 cm diameter / or 30 cm





26 •



27



28



29

various dimensions
15 cm diameter / or 30 cm



30



31



32



33 •

various dimensions
15 cm diameter / or 30 cm



36

approx. 60 cm x 50 cm



37 •

approx. 70 cm x 55 cm



40 •

approx. 40 cm x 35cm





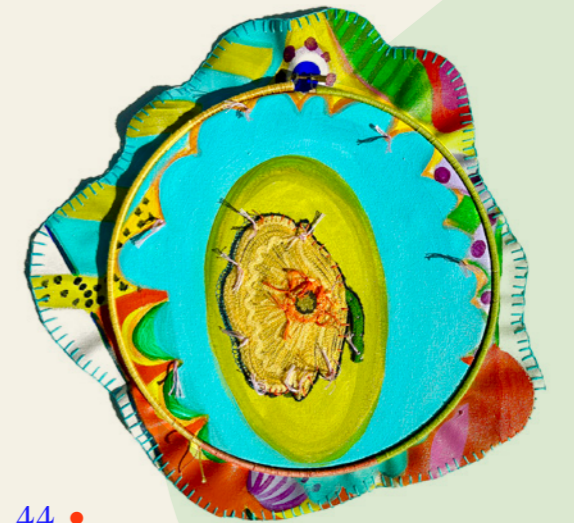
41 •



42 •



43



44 •



45



46 •

various dimensions
15 cm diameter / or 30 cm



47 •



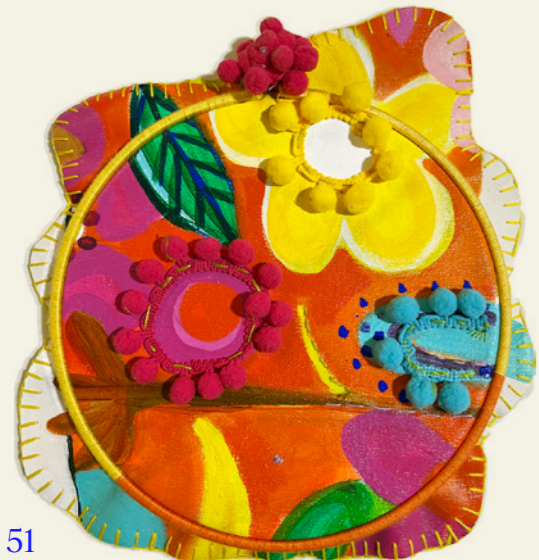
48 •



49 •



50



51



52

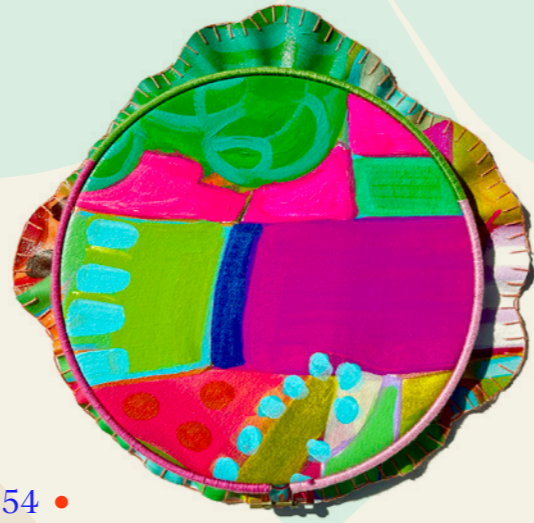




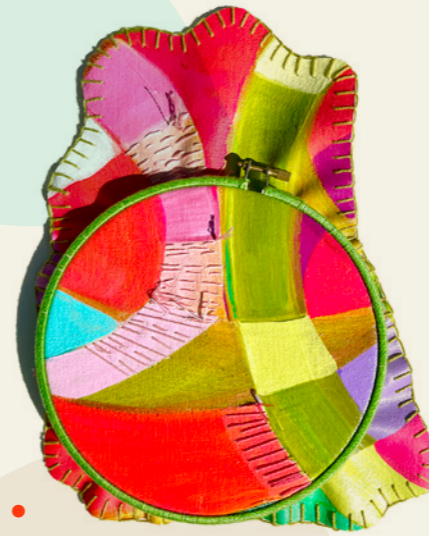
various dimensions
15 cm diameter / or 30 cm



53



54 •



55 •



56



57



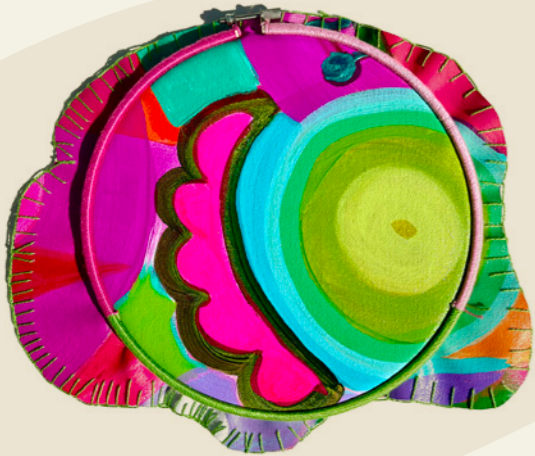
58 •



59



60



61



62



63



64



65



66



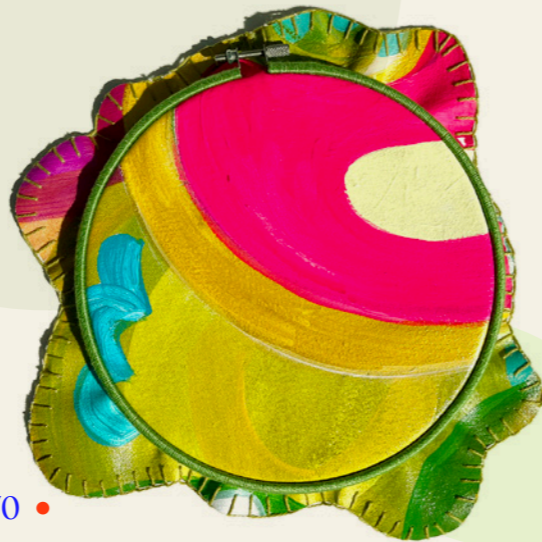
67 •



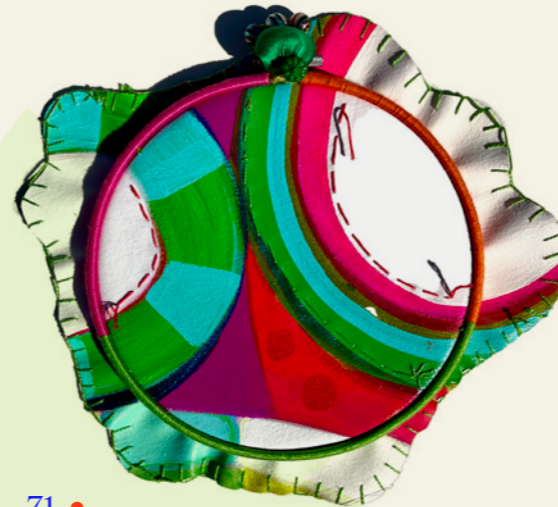
68



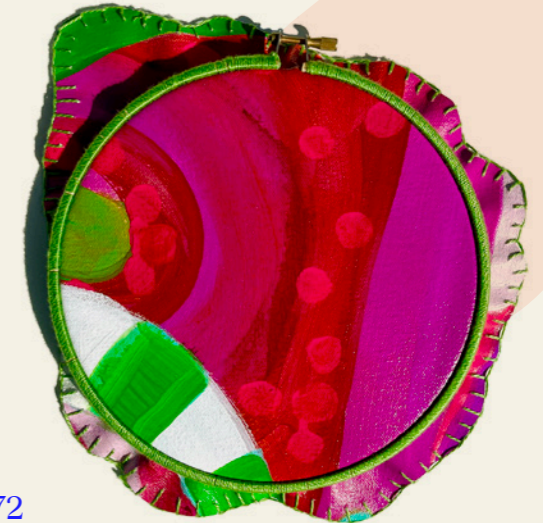
69 •



70 •



71 •



72



73



74 •



75



76 •

various dimensions
15 cm diameter / or 30 cm



77



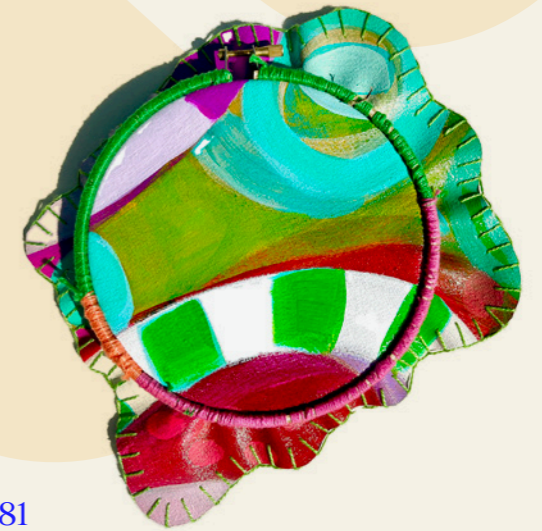
78



79 •



80 •



81



82

83 •
92 cm x 92 cm







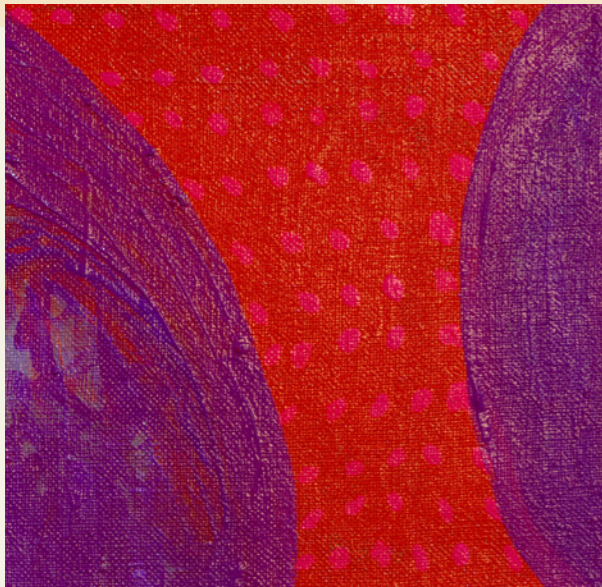


92 •



93 •

20 cm x 20 cm



95



96

94 •





97

20 cm x 20 cm



98



99





104



102



105



101



106

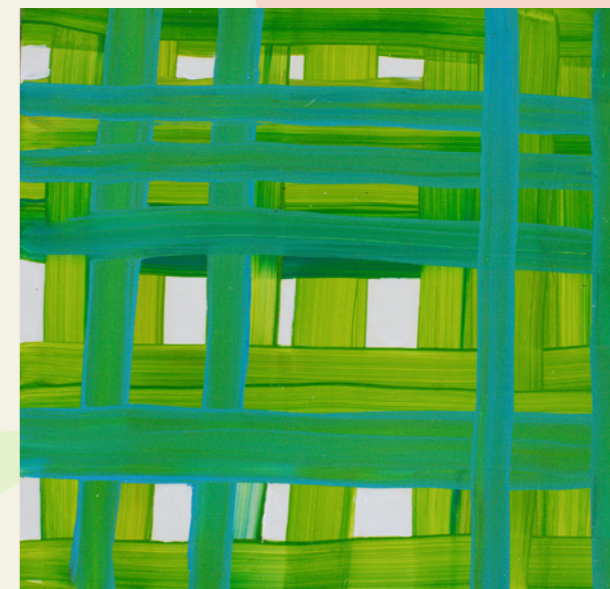
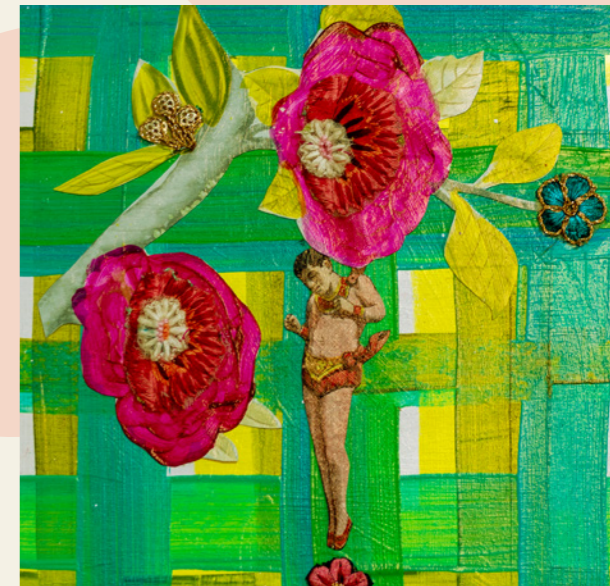


107

30 cm x 30 cm



108 •



110



111



112 •



113 •



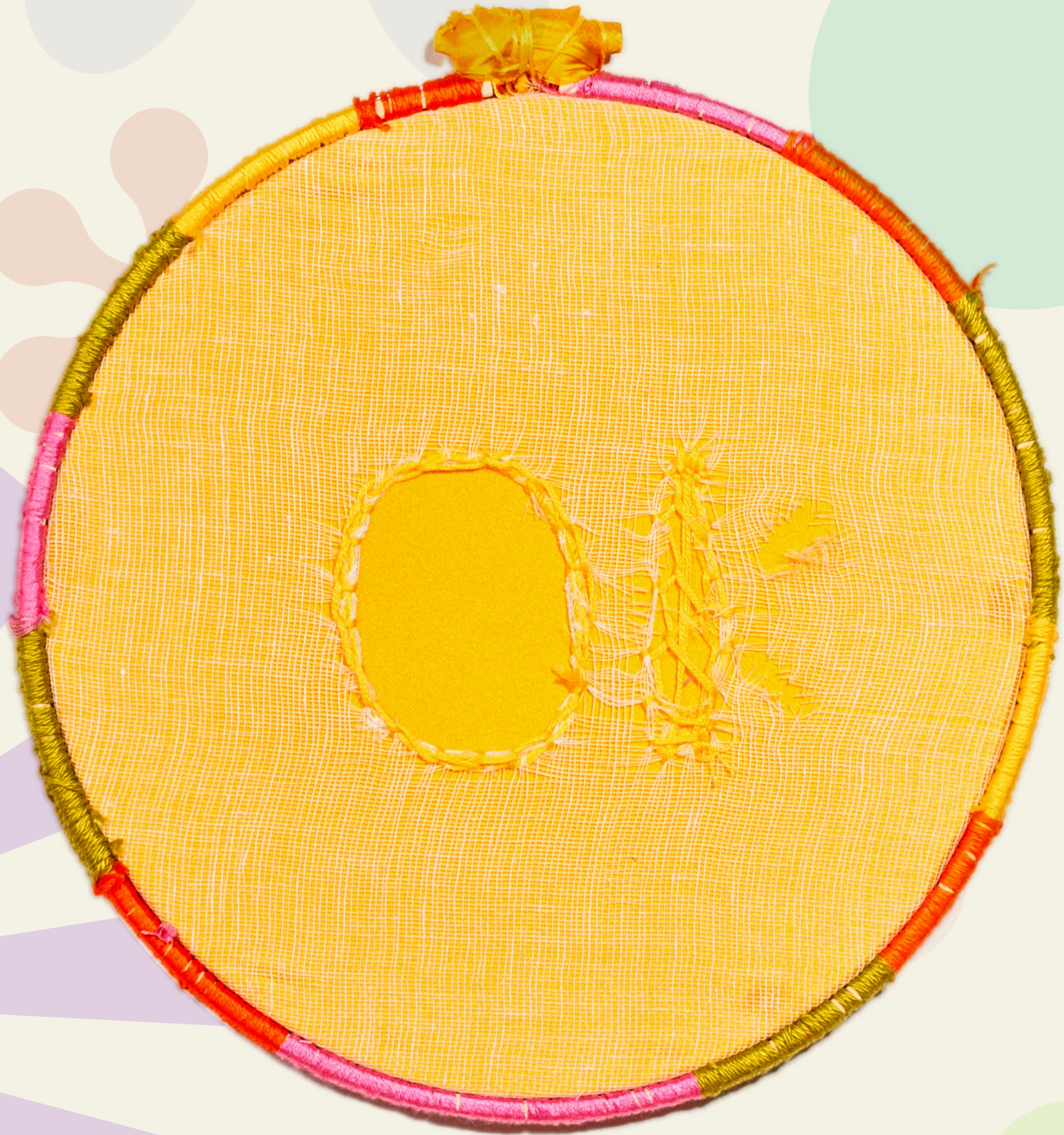
115



116 •

20 cm x 20 cm







Unsprung

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2023

Design: Cabina / Caro Mikalef