

SANDRA AHTEN



Sandra Ahten is painter living in Urbana Illinois.

"My painting technique for this series involves gluing pieces of patterned fabric to the canvas and applying clear gesso. On this surface, while allowing some of the fabric to remain revealed, I challenge myself to make a beautiful rendition of a domestic object in oil paint.

The art I make is a direct reflection of my life as a girl and as a woman. It is an exploration about what to hold on to and what to leave behind.

I am a collector. I gather objects and materials that were once, but are no longer useful in society. Stained, outdated, or worn -- I "picture" them and in doing so remember their history. I preserve the value of those that held the object. I am a keeper of memories.

I recognize the burden and the glory of being a woman. I am a maker. My mother and grandmothers were makers. They made sausage. They made gardens. They made dresses and pillows. They made dolls. Everywhere I turned were the results of their hands. I too have always made things. Now I call it art."

- Sandra Ahten

