

## ARTIST STATEMENT

Caeley Golla

I got started in art very late, never taking art classes until college. Throughout my three years as an art major I really struggled to find a medium I connected with. I did a lot of abstract painting, which I still love, but I struggled to find confidence in my work. This is when I turned to textiles.

I was drawn to textiles because it allows me creative freedom to come up with my own designs and figure out what stitches work best with which designs but it also gives me some external way to measure my success. The technical aspects of crochet allow me to be able to look back at my work and know I've done it correctly. This allows me to express myself creatively, while still making something definitively correct.

Another thing I really love about textiles is that my work is meant for physical interaction. The fact that my work has practical uses makes it a very accessible form of art, people can wrap up in my blankets and experience art on a very personal level. I can use different colors and stitches to express different moods, for instance, my patchwork blanket has very warm colors but the blocky pattern and extra tight stitch allows the blanket to feel very protective, while my white blanket feels very soft and delicate and the simplicity of it makes it feel calming and kind. For this reason, I titled each blanket by the emotion that it expresses.

Not only do I enjoy the aspects of design and logic that go into creating your own patterns, but crocheting has a beautiful sort of rhythm to it. It's something you can lose yourself in. Crocheting is such a tender act, I believe I am able to weave love into the fibers and that love is preserved and expressed every time the products get used. I see that in the beautiful blankets my Memaw made for my family before her passing, and I see it in my own work. Crocheting makes me feel connected to a very tangible form of love that has been expressed through this medium for hundreds of years. It makes me feel like I'm a part of something bigger than myself which is ultimately what I love so much about the medium.