

Taleen Batalian - Artist Statement

Working across mediums of textiles, drawing, painting, and printmaking, my work explores emotional landscapes and ways in which the body can serve as a vehicle for carrying experiences and memories.

The sculptural garments I make are equal parts clothing and sculpture. They contain protruding shapes, slits, stitched fissures, and heavy, laden forms that can be worn, carried, or draped on the body. Creation of these sculptural garments has led me to collaborate with dancers, sound designers, and scenic designers to create performance-based work – both live and on film. Working collaboratively has become an important aspect of my artistic practice.

To make the tapestries, I use fabric scraps and old clothing (some, from family) – which I dye, paint, tear, piece, cut and stitch. The singular pieces that make up the tapestries, as well as the larger, overall shape of each tapestry, evolves from the process of attempting to give shape to my feelings.

In my work with drawing, painting and printmaking, I explore specific places related to the body, memory, and geographic locations. For example, during a period of feeling tremendous loss, I created a drawing of my father's foot as a way to remember him. I transferred the drawing to a plate and created an etching which I used as a motif for a print pattern. The pattern served as the preliminary scaffolding for a larger-scale painting.