

Maxwell Cloe: A little bit different. This one wasn't animation in the same way. Tell me about *Sewing Conversations*.

Sarah Jenkins: I started this project in grad school as well. It was quite casual when it started and it kind of has ballooned. Become more of a practice, a social practice. So with this project, I was interested in just creating some type of social space around a shared creative activity, basically, of course calling back to like a sewing circle or the idea of community work being done. I had some sort of materials already. My grandma gave me her old sewing kit, which is seen on the left picture on the table. It's a lot of antique threads and we're using some of those as well. I gather folks together to sit. And so basically that's it, but it I've done it with friends. I've done it outside in public areas. I've done it at home. I've done it at my grandma's house. You know, I've kind of done it in intimate spaces and then larger spaces, like more public spaces as well. Like on the right, I was at Wheaton college at an exhibition called *A Nerve is Not a Nerve, but a Bundle of Fibers*. It was sort of a fibers show and I did multiple visits so that I was sewing with the people in the exhibition, and then people could add their embroidered work to the wall. And so part of the whole idea is that if you create something, I ask that you leave it with me and it becomes part of this greater collection that then is exhibited and/or kept safe and archived. It's sort of anonymous though. Like a lot of people don't write their name, so it becomes this kind of - it has become a little bit unwieldy in the sense that like I don't know. I don't know who these works are from unless they've written their name. I've had to kind of decide that that's okay. Like it's not actually so much about the individual person, right? It's really about the idea of us coming together and the conversations we have when we're together, which I really appreciate because a lot of I've had so many people who have never threaded a needle and I teach them how. Like they've never done that before. I teach them how to do like a French knot or whatever. And then there's also teaching happening at the table, which I really appreciate, just thinking about the way that, like my grandma taught me to do a few simple stitches and things like that. And so I'm passing on a little bit of that. To other folks.

MC: When did you start sewing?

SJ: I started sewing a little bit as a kid. Just kind of, again for fun. Or I would like ask my grandma like, "oh, how do I do this?" Or my grandma taught me to do simple crocheting when I was little, though I'm out a practice now at this point. I sewed - there's like a little pin cushion on one of these photographs, little purple and orange one - I sewed that for my grandma when I was like a teenager. Purple and orange patchwork.

MC: I like it

SJ: Thanks. Yeah, I've made that for my grandma and I was like a teen when I was like 14. So just here and there, but I learned how to do like buttons and simple fixes and things like that from her when I was a teenager.