



Everything That Surrounds Us,
2019, magnolia leaves, cotton thread.

SUSANNA BAUER'S WORK COMES FROM THE

intersection of two strong interests: art and nature. You can follow her "making" thread from early childhood, when knitting and crochet and creating things by hand were part of life, leading to a career as a model maker for film and advertising. The "nature" thread included working in a plant nursery in her younger days, working for a landscaping company, and later, pursuing a course of study in landscape architecture.

Susanna Bauer: A Thread, A Leaf



Core II
(side view), 2015,
magnolia leaf, cotton thread.



Round,
2019, magnolia
leaves, cotton thread.


“There is a fine balance in my work between fragility and strength: literally, when it comes to pulling a fine thread through a brittle leaf or thin, dry piece of wood, but also in a wider context—the tenderness and tension in human connections, the transient yet enduring beauty of nature that can be found in the smallest detail, the vulnerability and resilience that could be transferred to nature as a whole or through the stories of individual beings.”



Realignment,
2019, magnolia leaf,
cotton thread.

“I have always enjoyed making and creating; and knitting and crochet projects in the more conventional ways have been present throughout my life. I learned knitting, crochet, sewing, and embroidery on a basic level in primary school. My mother used to knit a lot and my grandmother was a seamstress, so I was surrounded by threads and material when I was young.

“My first works of this sort actually were a piece of branch collected in the woods and a smooth round stone. Spending time with these objects and taking them out of their usual cycle of life into a different context made me take in every little detail and look at what surrounds me in a different way. . . . Covering them in crochet and thereby . . . combining the craft technique with natural materials was my way of containing the experience that I associated with what I found.”



Suspended
(detail), 2018, magnolia
leaf, cotton thread, wood.





Centered IX,
2019, plane
tree leaves,
cotton thread.



Restoration V,
2019, magnolia leaf,
cotton thread.



“My very first leaf piece just had a simple crochet edge. That was followed by a darned leaf, and I moved on to try out [my first three-dimensional piece], a leaf cube. These very early works were made in 2008, and many variations followed. Over the years, as my crochet skills developed, the patterns and constructions became more complex, but my main focus always lies on what each individual piece wants to express. The technicality of the making process for me is secondary.

“The fragility of life, relationships between us as human beings as well as with the environment, the precariousness of the natural world and its delicate balances, and my utmost admiration for nature’s intricacies: all these are subjects that feed into my work and are universal to the human condition.”

Navigation IX,
2019, magnolia leaf,
cotton thread.



Inner Circle,
2015, magnolia
leaves, cotton thread.

“There is a lot of symbolism in the juxtaposition of a technique that relies on tension and a very fragile material—also looking closely at the fine details of leaves, the veins and shapes of each individual one, all different and unique, even coming from the same tree.”

You can see more of Bauer’s work on her website, www.susannabauer.com.



Together,
2019, magnolia
leaves, cotton thread.