

## **Blogpost Blogpost #antainartists**

### **Roseann Berrill**

What does textiles mean to you?

My journey with textiles began when I was very young, and begins with memories of my mother sewing. A talented dress maker, she was always conjuring up new items of clothing for us to wear. Re-imagining an old dress, knitting a new jumper, there was nothing she couldn't make or fix. This talent was passed on to my mother from her mother, and these skills and memories resonate deeply with me.

I am attracted to craft-based techniques and it's time consuming aspects, the recognition of time, labour and care found in a hand-sewn object. I find there is a connection in this laborious task between stitching, mending and meditation. The act of using our hands to create, sew, stitch as a repeating meditative process, which acts as a cathartic experience in taking the mind away from repetitive, thinking thoughts, and also benefiting and rewarding us in performing a skilled task whilst making something which has meaning to us. These words from Lauren Dicioccio I find interesting in questioning how we may view these techniques within an art practice. "Because hand-sewing and embroidery are techniques that themselves have somewhat obsolesced, when people recognize the preciousness in sculptural objects made in this manner, they seem to also have a secondary reaction laced with a hint of pathetic-ness- ie, they lament the time lost towards doing such a monotonous and time-consuming activity to make a non-functional thing. The tension between this reaction, combined with the overlapping recognition of both the beauty and worthwhile-ness of the resulting object, lead to a powerful energy that the hand-sewn object exudes." - Lauren Dicioccio

Roseann Berrill is An Táin Arts Centre's visual artist in residence. Roseann will be in residence in the Basement Gallery studio during July, August and September 2017. Follow her progress on Instagram @rosieberrill #antainartists