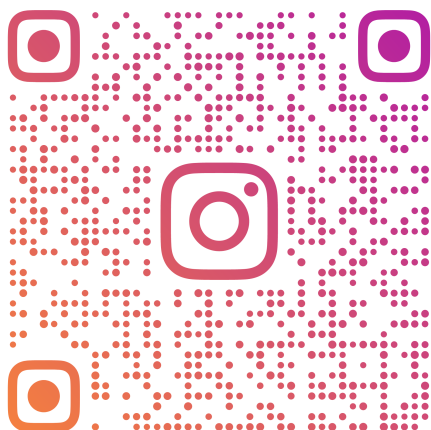


## Joyce Raimondo Artist Statement

Following the loss of my brother as a young adult, I made hundreds of artworks that pictured loss. I painstakingly stitched patches of tissues into grids that I embroidered with barely visible words. Seen and unseen, the words were an expression of the imperceptible pain of bereavement. The repetitious joining of pieces bit by bit expressed the recurrence of grief which seemed never ending. The pieces invited emotional intimacy while simultaneously unnerving the viewer with their extreme vulnerability.

Moving through bereavement to hope, my creativity transformed into vibrant paintings. Bright colors emerged onto my canvases as I began painting words embedded into playful designs. The complex designs in my images begin with small free flowing drawings that I then project onto large canvases. Although the large compositions are derived from automatic drawings, they are then painted with methodical stillness obliterating the artist's mark. The paintings imply jam packed movement "popping" with color, yet the meticulous method of applying paint is a meditation calming my mind.

My paintings draw viewers into a visual puzzle — playing with perception. Bold graphic abstractions can alternately be recognized as phrases readable in varying degrees. My work calls attention to visual ambiguity and paradox; active and still, constricted and expressive, abstract and recognizable, whimsical and serious, labor intensive and fragile. As an artist, I am keenly aware that opposite truths co-exist and we see the world through our own subjective lens.



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