

Tara Kennedy Artist statement

The painful suffering from cultural conflict could transform and develop into hope through unity and empathy

My textile work started from a need to express the unity of my mixed cultural heritage. The despair I feel of different cultures and religions suffering in conflict drives me to communicate important messages of acceptance, empathy and hope. It is possible through understanding these messages there could be more harmonious outcomes.

My work is about creating expressions of hope emerging from this pain. It is essential to me to that the context of my work leaves an impression on the viewer, leaving them to contemplate and consider.

The materials I use are chosen for their tactile quality, seeking to create a comforting feeling. They include yarns, threads and fabrics and involve techniques of knitting, wrapping, felting, knotting and stitch. Process is also significant and references therapeutic, meditative and calming practices.

I create soft sculptures and wall hangings as well as detailed drawings. These drawings provide an alternative viewpoint and compliment my 3D work.

The coloured yarns provide a metaphor to show the transformation from the blood spilt and pain of suffering through graduated tones to ivory conveying hope. I use the imagery of cages, bundles and wrapped forms with knots expressing tension, wrapped bundles conveying unity and cages suggesting protection.