

# XSTITCH



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## ARTIST PROFILE: TANJA BOUKAL

Human beings are in the focus of my work – their interaction with the surrounding and the society, the way they deal with difficult situations. I am not interested in the details of their faces or their bodies. I am rather interested in what they are capable of when they happen to be in special life situations.



Hanging By A Thread #4



Hanging By A Thread #6

I am interested in their ways of finding solutions and strategies, their will to achieve their goals and their joy in life. I am interested whether these people seek their fortunes alone or in company.

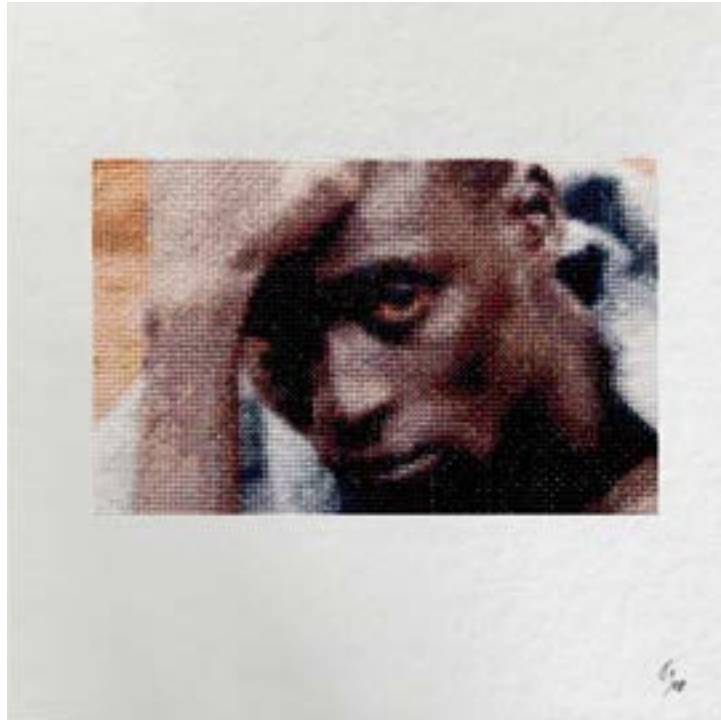


My starting point is the human dignity. I often place extraordinary people at the centre of my works. I do not want to depict them as individual characters, but rather as representatives of people, who are willing to walk long distances to achieve their goals.

I give curtain calls to people who usually stay out of sight. My gaze turns mainly to those who are not normally in the limelight, but who nonetheless make a great impact through their often unnoticed actions.



Influenced by my education as a stage designer and embroidery artist, I have been working primarily in the areas of sculpture and installation since the mid-1990s. I have used photography as a basis for my works for several years now. Since 2007, I have increasingly employed arts-and-crafts techniques such as knitting, embroidery, crochet, and sewing.



Hangin' By A Thread #5

Hangin' By A Thread #12



Handcraft - for thousands of years known as the art of ordinary men and women, is representing to me human creativity and joy of life. Their aspiration is to remain in memory, to create something significant.

These techniques help me to emphasise the importance of the portrayed people. For me, the feel of the materials is just as important as an installation that draws in beholders.