



ALICE KETTLE

Within Each Other, Portraits of Ourselves



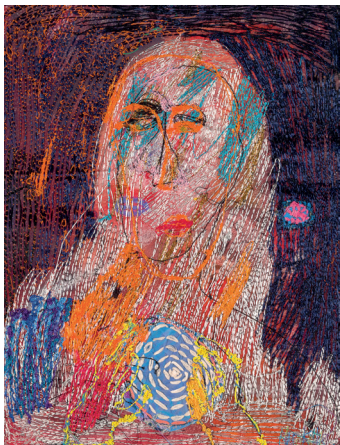
Image (front cover); *Lady and Trees*, 2020 Hand and machine stitch on printed fabric, 43.5 x 29.5 cm

Image (above); *Blue Man*, 2020 Hand and machine stitch on printed fabric, 76.5 x 54.5 cm

Images overleaf;

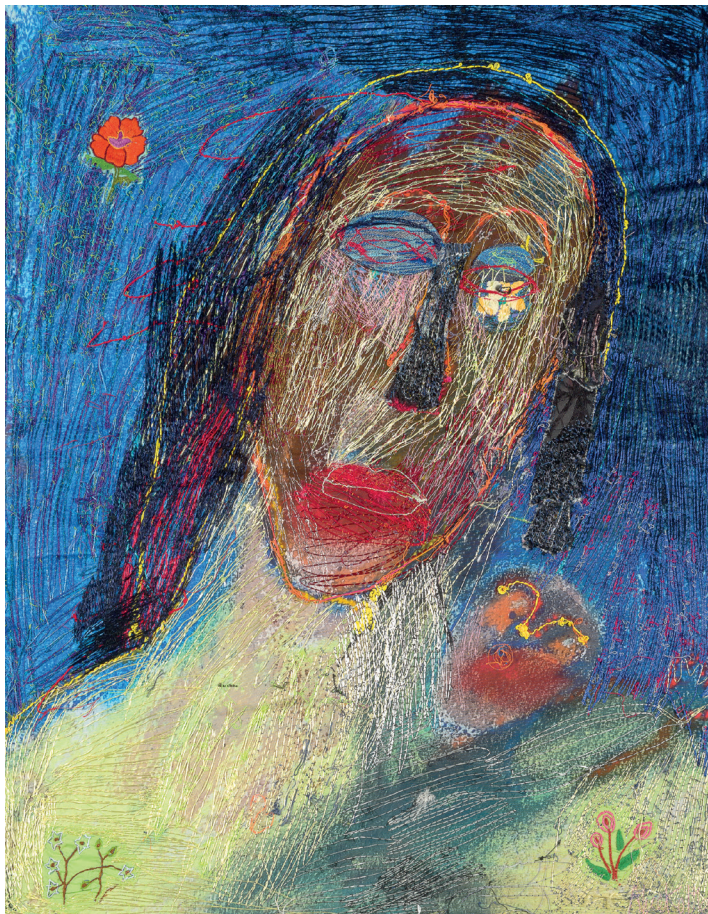
(left) *Lady with a Bowl*, 2020 Hand and machine stitch on printed fabric, 38.5 x 29.5 cm

(right) *Mother and Child, Orange*, 2020 Hand and machine stitch on printed fabric, 38 x 29.5 cm



Professor Alice Kettle's series of portraits *Within Each Other, Portraits of Ourselves*, is an extension of her recent *Thread Bearing Witness* project which saw an opening out of her practice to engage more emphatically through stitch with others. Some are made solely by Alice and others are co-created, enabling a shared authorship reflecting the ability of stitch to intersect across divided spaces and connect with others through a common language of making. Textiles and pattern have historically migrated, facilitated by the movement of people and trade. Agile and mobile, textile is a material carrier for the imagery and symbolism of stories. These new works simultaneously explore individual and collective identity, divided and shared through social, political and economic circumstances.

As part of the Karachi Biennale19, Alice worked with groups of women in Pakistan to co-create a stitched piece. These same women, along with women in England contribute to this series of portraits by offering floral motifs and decorative backgrounds which Alice incorporates into her work. This project has brought together expert stitchers from villages and communities in the Sindh province. Individuals based in England; Asmaa from Syria, Monica from Iran and Susan from Uganda also work as contributors to these collaborative portraits. Alice is engaging with these groups and individuals as part of an on-going relationship to encourage sustainable practice and empower artistic creativity. She is passionate about supporting traditional stitch ancestral knowledge, and encouraging the retention of their knowledge and their cultural and artistic identities.



Image; *Lady and Baby*, 2018 oil on canvas, 77 x 59.5 cm

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