

Sophia NARRETT

Art and Object,

Sophia Narrett Sews the Seeds of Love, One Thread at a Time

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Sophia Narrett, *Whisper Like a Magnet*, 2020.

COURTESY KOHN GALLERY

Creating colorful narratives about erotic encounters from needle and thread, Sophia Narrett makes fascinating embroidered artworks that are fueled by love and desire. Trained as a painter, the Brooklyn-based artist began working with yarn by chance while constructing a sculpture during her undergrad studies at Brown University. Further experimenting with thread to stitch some drawings, she brilliantly discovered a way to employ embroidery to simulate figurative paintings. By the time she received

her MFA from the [Rhode Island School of Design](#) in 2014, she was imaginatively making meaningful art with her new medium, which quickly caught the attention of critics, curators, and collectors.

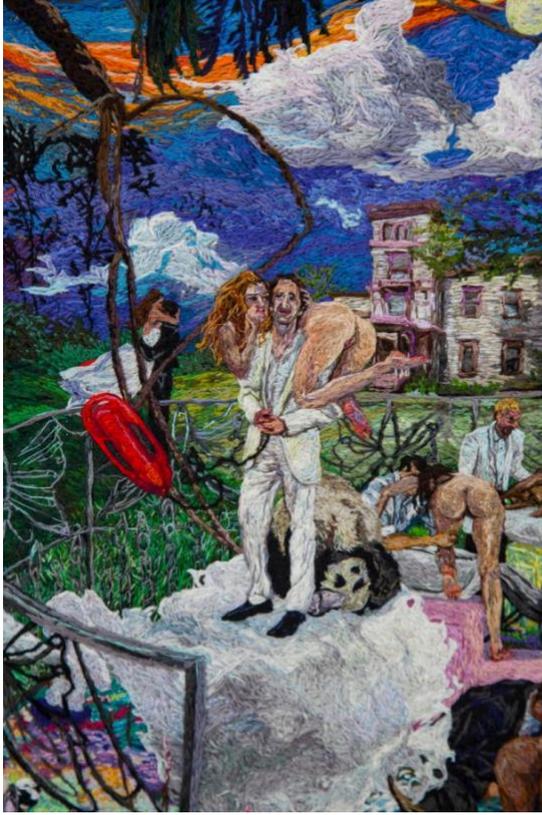


Sophia Narrett, *Infinity*, 2020.

COURTESY KOHN GALLERY

Not exactly your grandma's embroidery, although Narrett's initial interest in art actually did come from seeing her grandmother's handmade copies of Marc Chagall's romantic paintings, the artist fills her works with emotional experiences and wild fantasies. Starting with a preoccupation that she's personally felt or is pondering, Narrett develops a visual narrative by creating a digital collage with imagery culled from pop culture, movies, television shows, and social media, as well as her own staged photographs. Tapping into our collective consciousness through mass media and the Internet, she sensationally stitches people, props, and scenery together to construct contemporary tales on par with *The Garden of Earthly Delights'* celebrated creator, Hieronymus Bosch.

After a string of New York exhibitions and honors that elevated her profile and placed her in the context of some of the best young women artists working today, Narrett makes her Los Angeles solo show debut with *Soul Kiss* at the city's esteemed Kohn Gallery. Constructing the works in the exhibition over the course of a year—each meticulous piece can take from weeks to months to make—the artist is presenting nine new engaging embroideries, which are mounted on aluminum, in a variety of sizes and scenarios.



COURTESY KOHN GALLERY

Sophia Narrett, *Whisper Like a Magnet* (detail), 2020.

The largest work on view, *Whisper Like a Magnet*, is still intimate when compared to the scale of paintings by [Cecily Brown](#) and Lisa Yuskavage—two artists that Narrett admires who equally explore eroticism from a female point of view—yet it packs a powerful punch in the complexity of its story. Staged like a selection of colorful scenes from a modern melodrama, it follows the romantic relationship of a playful couple who go from shooting paintballs and appreciating pandas to making love in the clouds and marrying. Chock full of symbolic details, it captures a hippie-like orgy in the sophisticated style of television's *Mad Men* and *Sex in the City*.



COURTESY KOHN GALLERY

Sophia Narrett, *Before First Sight*, 2020.

Before First Sight also has that fresh from the screen look—albeit the monitor of a video game—with androgynous female figures tumbling through a mountainous landscape to rescue a damsel in distress and the sun bursting through the hills like an explosive shot from a gamer's gun. The woman they seek to rescue may just need saving from her isolation, as the work was made during the coronavirus crisis. As she lingers in her loneliness, a nearby couple caress and other women gather beneath the clouds in joyful packs.



COURTESY KOHN GALLERY

Sophia Narrett, *Someday*, 2020.

Some of the smaller pictures seem like stage scenarios and outtakes from a film. *Sweethearts* shows a nude woman wildly straddling a mailbox as she embraces her man; *Infinity* reveals an overtly passionate nude femme fatale giving a guy a lap dance on a park bench; and *Someday* portrays two women in a rapturous embrace on a cornucopia-shaped arrangement of clouds, waves, rainbows, and planets capped by a four-leaf clover for good luck. Creating her own personal mythology, Narrett provides viewers endless entertainment while inventively contributing to an age-old medium and the ever-changing nature of contemporary art.