

**Winnie van der Rijn**  
Artist Statement

I am a multidisciplinary artist of opportunity. I collect materials, experiment with techniques and pursue curiosities all the while looking for connections, intersections and overlaps. It's a spinning Venn diagram that suddenly locks into place when all of the input mixes with an idea, resulting in the emergence of creative expression. My work exists in the realm of possibility and potential.

My compositions unfold; design and construction happen simultaneously. The structure grows out of a conversation with the materials. I embrace the discarded, the flawed and the marginalized. I create fictional histories, alternative narratives, future truths & imagined worlds in the form of false relics, ritual artifacts and altered portraits.

Themes of memory, identity, gender, beauty and power reflect my everyday experiences, interactions and concerns. Every choice I make about how I spend my time and energy tells the world who I am and what I value. Every time the world speeds up, I react by slowing down— working more and more with my hands in an attempt to balance the universe. How much trouble can I make with my needle and thread?