

Artist statement – Tracy Davidson

My work is strongly informed by my childhood memories & experiences. My father served many prison sentences and in my work, I express how his confinement affected my family, emotionally, socially and financially. Living with the stigma was not easy and I had to grow up quickly to help my mother with my younger siblings. I also explore notions of lost childhood as a result of this.

In addition, I focus on my beloved grandmother's battle with Alzheimer's. She was a very strong woman who suffered much adversity in her life. She has always been a constant inspiration to me in many different ways and I owe a lot of my values to her. Within my work I explore ideas of fading memories and the loss of the essence of a person to this devastating illness.

I use vintage textiles including handkerchiefs, napkins, baby clothing and doilies to print and stitch onto. Words, as well as images of personal objects from my past, feature strongly in my work.

Since the start of the pandemic and being on lockdown, I have begun to make my work again after a few years of abstinence. I have made work almost every day since March and have been using hand embroidery for the first time. Since I do not have a studio I have had to modify my work and make small pieces. Instead of this being restrictive, I have found that it has opened the door to my previously blocked creativity and led me on to the next stage of my work. It has helped me immensely with my mental health and I have found it very satisfying and therapeutic.