

Tess Vega

tessvega.com

artbytessvega@gmail.com

773-456-2400

Chicago, Illinois

Where does beauty lie in the tension between our physical and emotional realities?

How can you express the oneness in all living things through hyper-specific experiences?

These questions guide my art-making and narrative processes as I explore the tensions and meeting places between change and stillness, hope and doubt, certainty and uncertainty, and life and death.

My work focuses on telling both a broader emotional narrative and a specific personal narrative. The emotional narrative is composed of what I call emotional data, or the emotional effect felt in our bodies and our conscious and unconscious experiences. I am exploring the impact of those experiences and how we store and use that data.

I draw from my personal history living with chronic illness, both mental and physical, and the challenges, successes, pain, joy, and insights I face on my path to healing and acceptance. Through the emotional narrative, I use the experience of having chronic illness, and bridge that understanding by stripping back labels, politics, and societal expectations to bring awareness to the raw experience of being a human. My philosophy is that we all go through these felt experiences in some capacity throughout our lives regardless of lived experience, and I highlight that sameness among all people through my work. In both painting and in fiber art, I use intuitive decision-making as a tool to explore the self and express what I can't easily say with words or access consciously. Painting is a more immediate medium to access my own "emotional data" through color, texture, and form.

As impermanent living objects, textiles change over time, through touch and care. By hand-dyeing found materials and displaying these items outside of their expected function and location, I create an anecdotal relationship between the objects and ourselves. Rather than the physical comfort traditionally associated with textiles, my work serves as a spiritual and mental comfort to those of us who recognize our physical connection to our experiences.