## tessvega.com

## Tess Vega

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My work focuses on telling visual and emotional narratives. The spoken narrative is highly personal and specific, but easier to make sense of. My spoken narrative surrounds my personal experiences and outlines the tensions between change, stillness, hope, doubt, certainty, uncertainty, life, and death.

The work tells both a broader narrative and a subtle one. The subtle is comprised of emotional data, the emotional effect our experiences have on us. In each piece, I am exploring the impact of those experiences and how we store and use that data.

I draw from my experiences with chronic illness, both mental and physical, and the challenges, successes, pain, joy, and insights I face on my path to healing. Through the emotional narrative, I aim to bring understanding and awareness to the raw experience of being a human. I use the experience of having chronic illness, and bridge that understanding by stripping back labels, politics, and societal expectations. We all go through these felt experiences in some capacity throughout our lives regardless of our stories, and I highlight that sameness among all people through my work. I also take careful consideration into my materials, as they contribute to the larger narrative as well.

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.