

staircase

148 Clement St
San Francisco, CA



PRESS
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la@staircase.place
ic@staircase.place

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sew your echo

Isabella Manfredi

July 14 - August 13, 2023

Opening Reception:
Friday, July 14, 7-10 pm



Isabella Manfredi, *Calistoga Red*, 2023.

San Francisco, CA. July 13, 2023 - staircase is pleased to present *sew your echo*, an exhibition of work by San Francisco artist Isabella Manfredi. This is the third exhibition in staircase's inaugural series.

imbues the
memory of place.
hear your flesh,
whisper
time is both alert
and wasted
echo misty green
stitches from past
to present. a metaphor
I can't quite quit

- Isabella Manfredi

sew your echo is a sentimental meditation on the intricate geometries of human relationships. Artist Isabella Manfredi repurposes old footage of her family's ranch to create an original film and textile-based artworks. Through stitching, printmaking, and carpentry, Manfredi presents artifacts as a conduit for memory.

Manfredi's profound connection to her heritage, coupled with her trade as a clothes maker, forms the silhouette of this exhibition. As a young child, she spent countless hours at her grandfather's ranch for retired racehorses in Ferndale, California, but she has no recollection of that time. Instead, she meticulously manipulates her father's home videos to infuse a sense of poetic nostalgia. The film is projected onto a vast scrap of fabric with a shirt collar stitched in the center as a nod to her garment skills.

At the heart of *sew your echo* lies an ode to the tools that shape Manfredi's creative process. These objects are scattered throughout the gallery as tangible artifacts. The hammer, a constant companion in Manfredi's daily work, symbolizes the duality of fabrication and deconstruction. The redwood frames, crafted by Manfredi and gifted by her father, hold the weight of ancestral ties and the passage of time. And the recurring motifs of starfish, a delicate reference to the sea, dance alongside the skull, a memento from her journey to the tombs of Italy.

Together these tropes transcend their individual narratives, embracing the universal language of memory, lineage, and the enduring patterns that shape our lives.

About the Artist

Isabella Manfredi works in printmaking, sewing, and poetry creating sculptural installations that can be worn for years. Her work has nods to workwear, entropy, familial identity, and nostalgia. While she strives to craft a utilitarian object, she aims for her work to exist within and outside the gallery space. She graduated with a BA in Art Practice and a Minor in Journalism from the University of California, Berkeley. She lives and works in San Francisco, CA.

About staircase

staircase is an experimental space from curious collaborators (Lindsay Albert + Ivana Colendich). The inaugural series is born out of the need for more alternative and affordable art spaces in the Bay Area. The project will showcase various art forms and host events centered around the visual arts. Established in 2023, based in San Francisco.

Address

staircase gallery
148 Clement St
San Francisco, CA 94118

Hours

Opening Reception:
July 14, 2023, 7-10 pm
Saturday & Sunday, 12-4 pm

Contact

la@staircase.place
ic@staircase.place

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