



Social Fabric

Open Saturdays and Sundays, 12-5pm. 9th March -14nd April
Also by appointment. Email: hello@ivorytars.co.uk

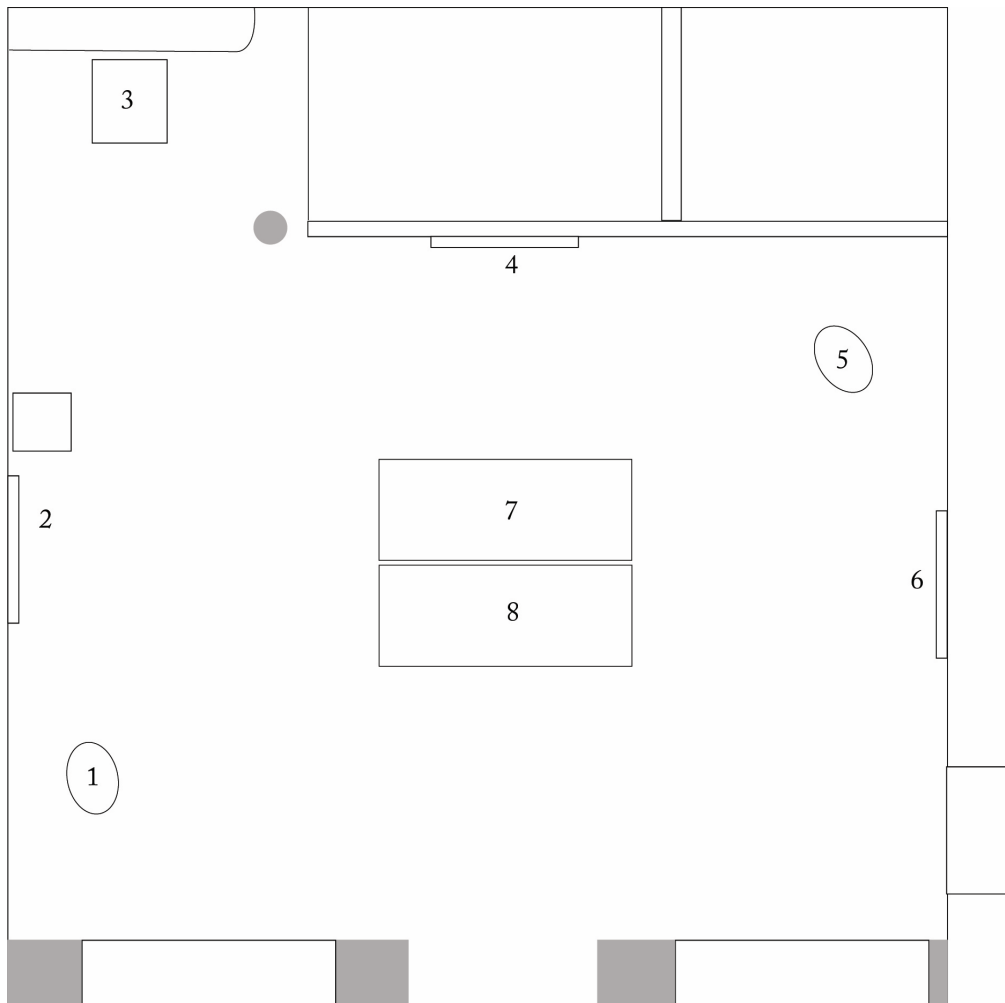
If Earth had been hit by plague, by fire, by war, by radiation, sterility, a thousand things, you name it, I'd still stand by her; I love her; I would fight every inch of the way there because my whole life is knit to her. And she'd need mourners. To die on a dying Earth. I'd live, if only to weep.

Joanna Russ, 'We Who are About To...' (1976)

Ivory Tars is pleased to present *Social Fabric*, a two-person exhibition bringing together artworks by Ellen Lesperance and Evelyn Roth, exploring the intertwined themes of community and anarchic self-expression in textiles-based practice.

Ellen Lesperance (b. 1971, Minneapolis, lives and works in Portland, USA) employs the visual language of knitting patterns in order to pay homage to female activism. Inspired by acts of defiance that have shaped the twentieth century, the artist sources archival images of protesters' hand-knitted garments, which she first translates into American Symbolcraft, before turning them into meticulous gouache paintings on paper. Citing inspiration from Bauhaus-era weavers, the Pattern and Decoration movement, and feminist body art of the 1970s and 1980s, Lesperance reframes image-making outside of male-dominated Western painting traditions. Her works honour the creative labour of women standing up against social and political ills and environmental destruction. A recurring subject of her research is the Greenham Common Peace camp, established in Berkshire in 1982 to protest against nuclear armament.

Evelyn Roth (b.1936 Mundare, Canada, lives and works in Maslin Beach, Australia) is a countercultural pioneer whose environmentally sensitive practice has taken many forms. She was closely involved during the 1960s with Intermedia, an artists' collective based in British Columbia, creating video art, performances, wearable sculptures and immersive installations. From 1973 through to the 1980s The Evelyn Roth Moving Sculpture Company, a group formed to showcase her creations, performed at a great number of international festivals and other events. In 1975 Roth published *The Evelyn Roth Recycling Book*, a survey of her work to date and a watershed manifesto for ecological consciousness in the arts. She has worked with local communities consistently throughout her career. Nylon Zoo, an expansive multimedia project aimed primarily at younger audiences and commenced in 1976, remains active to this day.



1. Evelyn Roth
Video Amazon (1971)
 Crocheted videotape

5. Evelyn Roth
Fiesta (ca.1970)
 Recycled Leather, Feathers

2. Ellen Lesperance
Sister, You Don't Look Like a Revolution (2023)
 Gouache and graphite on tea-stained paper,
 sweater hand-knit by the artist

6. Ellen Lesperance
This Woman Says No to Corrie Anti-Abortion Bill
 (2020)
 Gouache and graphite on tea-stained paper

3. Evelyn Roth
Wearable Art (1971) [3:33]
Woven in Time (1974) [9:00]
Arts 74 Documentary (1974) [14:10]

7. Evelyn Roth
 Ephemera relating to The Evelyn Roth Moving
 Sculpture Company (1974-1980s), Nylon Zoo
 (1976-) and *Living Arts Festival*, Vancouver
 (1979)

4. Ellen Lesperance
The Second Path of Feminye (2020)
 Gouache and graphite on tea-stained paper

8. Ellen Lesperance
 Preparatory colour studies and images from the
 artist's personal archive of Greenham Common
 protesters