

# Rebecca Harris

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## about

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I am an independent interdisciplinary artist and researcher. Since graduating from an MA in 2013 I have shown work nationally and sold artworks to private collections around the globe. My research has been published and I have given paper and poster presentation to multidisciplinary conferences around the UK. Most notably I gave a talk at the school of social and cultural anthropology at Oxford University earlier this year. Following this, we are currently in discussion for further work and collaboration. In 2015 I was commissioned by the Wellcome Trust and Eden Project to create an embroidery on the human microbiome in which I collaborated with a professor of microbiology from UCL. The work is on permanent display at the world-renowned site, attracting millions of visitors per year and during its making, I was interviewed by the BBC World Service which aired to an estimated 60-70 million viewers.

Public engagement, research and education are passions of mine. My art practice centres itself on interdisciplinary research as a means of engaging, educating and affecting an audience within the theme of the body from a biomedical perspective. My own research explores such areas of affect, social anthropology, psychosocial, phenomenology, audience engagement and collaborating.

My artworks are mainly textiles based drawing on analogies between skin and cloth. Where textiles are used to conceal, I use them to reveal. Furthermore, through the presence of hand and craft, textiles everyday-ness and familiarity I aim to engage an audience with the theme of the works through its visceral and tactile appeal.

For many years I have been a teacher of the arts and have worked from such situations as workshops to delivering research papers at many universities. My experience within education ranges from nursery to university level. My education background precedes my art training and I have taught other subjects such as English, maths, philosophy and religion. During my teacher training (post-16) I received outstanding lesson observations which I was told at the time was a rarity. My friendly, fun and warm personality enables engagement.

As well as my teaching and arts background I have worked in a variety of customer service roles, including civil service, shops, clothing and the leisure industry. Demonstrating, I am an effective communicator at all levels and have strong customer care skills. When leaving school I studied business, finance and administration which have all served well in transferable skills across my work.

Above all, I am enthusiastic, a fast learner and keen to embrace tasks at hand to ensure I work to my full potential in any given job situation.

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## **education**

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2011-13, Plymouth University, Masters in Contemporary Art Practice

2010-11, Plymouth College of Art, BA (hons) in Fine Art Practice (first class)

2009-10, Cornwall College, Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (PCET)

2007-08, Open University, Graduate Diploma in Religious studies and other courses

2003-04, Cornwall College, FdA Fine Art (incomplete)

2001-03, AVCE art & design, AS level textiles

1996-97, Penzance Jobcentre, NVQ 2 in Business Administration

1993-94, Penwith College, BTEC first in Business and Finance

1991-93, Humphry Davy School, 9 GCSEs including Maths and English both at C

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## **employment**

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2018-19, supply teaching at various locations

2018, Site Supervisor and Exhibition Invigilator for The Exchange and Newlyn

2015-18, bar work at The White Horse, Launceston and The Station House, Marazion

2009-17, self-employed artist

2017, workshop facilitator for Women in Prisons, London

2016-17, special needs teacher, Exeter College

2012-17, visiting lecturer at Plymouth College of Art and Plymouth University

2016, workshop leader for Eden Project 'Micro-Macro' - part of 'Invisible You'

2012, support worker, Plymouth University

2009-10, PGCE teaching placement on FdA Fine Art Textiles, Cornwall College

2009-10, community education tutor, Cornwall College

2005-08, teacher, mentor and teaching assistant at Humphry Davy secondary school

2004-05, shop assistant and regional concessions manager, Arcadia Group Cornwall

2003, lecturer in art and design, Penwith College

1996-97, Administration Officer, Penzance Jobcentre

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## **collections**

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Eden Project Human Microbiome public commission funded by the Wellcome Trust.

Featuring artist in Wellcome Images.

Various artworks in private collections across the UK, Australia, Hong Kong and New York.

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## **exhibitions**

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2017, 'Storm in a B Cup', Plymouth Art Weekender

2017, 'Body Confidence', NR Project, London

2017, 'Storm in a B Cup', Art Week Exeter

2016, 'Open studio', Launceston, Cornwall

2015, 'Field Notes Residency' W.A.N.K., The Exchange, Penzance

2015, 'The Game of Consequences' The Exchange, Penzance

2015, 'The Brain and Mental Health' NeuroSoc, UCL, London

2015, 'Maps', Scene, London

2015, 'Pulling it Off', Fish factory Arts, Falmouth

2015, 'Invisible You: the Human Microbiome' - permanent exhibition at the Eden Project

2013-14, 'Emergent' Faculty of Arts master degree show, University of Plymouth

2013, 'Nonsense', O3 Gallery, Oxford Castle, Oxford

2013, 'MA Contemporary Art Practice MA Show', Plymouth University

2013, 'Weight Stigma and Health' exhibition & poster presentation, Birmingham University

2013, 'Body Modification & the Female Body' exhibition & research paper delivered at York University

2012-13, 'any place that invites me in' group show at 101 Artspace, Plymouth University

2012, 'Summer Show' at Plymouth University

2012, 'Bread & Roses' at Motorcade Flash Parade, Bristol

2011, 'Dwelling' solo show at 101 ArtSpace, Plymouth University

2011, 'Still Life' solo show at Steele Gallery, Falmouth

2011, 'Best of Summer Showcase' and 'Degree Show', Plymouth College of Art

2011, 'HerStory', Winchester

2009, 'Freedom', Forge Mill Museum, Redditch

2009, Open Studio, Goldsithney, Cornwall

2009, Jersey Textile Showcase

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## **competitions, awards & funding**

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2017, crowdfunding for Storm in a B Cup

2015, 'Revealing with Textiles' - Grants for the Arts, Arts Council

2015, Funded commission from the Wellcome Trust via the Eden Project

2013, Equality and Diversity Faculty of Arts grant, University of Plymouth

2009, 'Transformation' at the Jersey Textile Showcase

2009, 'Freedom', shortlisted artist for the Charles Henry Foyle Trust Award, Redditch

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## conference contributions & publication

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2018, paper presentation and artist's talk on 'Obscure Objects of Obesity' art research project for 'Embodied methods: Art and social science in dialogue' at Oxford University

2015, BBC World Service documentary featuring interview and work of the Eden Project commission (plus many other video clips featuring interviews and artwork for the commission)

2015, chapter in the anthology 'The Politics of Size: Perspectives from the Fat Acceptance Movement' ed. Ragen Chastain (Praeger - an imprint of ABC-CLIO, LLC), pp. 55-70

2013, poster presentation of 'Skin Deep: the skin as repository' art research project for Plymouth University's annual postgraduate society conference

2013, poster presentation and small exhibition of works from 'Skin Deep: the skin as repository' art research project for 'Weight Stigma and Health' conference, Birmingham University

2013, 'Body Modification and the Female Body' conference, , University of York

2012, 'The Home & the World' conference, 'Home: our corner of the world', Dartington Hall

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## links

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