

This exhibition foregrounds how visual artists have explored the materials, methods, and strategies of craft over the past seven decades. Drawn primarily from the Whitney's collection, it features the work of more than sixty artists who emphasize the tactility of the objects they make. Some have expanded techniques with long histories—such as weaving, sewing, or throwing pots—while others have experimented with unexpected applications of textiles, clay, and beads, among other mediums. Traces of the artists' hands-on engagement with their materials in many works invite viewers to imagine how it might have felt to make them.

While artists' reasons for taking up craft vary widely, many have aimed to subvert prevailing standards for judging so-called fine art, often in direct response to the politics of their time. By reclaiming visual languages that are often coded as feminine, domestic, or vernacular, these artists seek to undo the marginalization of certain modes of artistic production. The works on view provide new perspectives on subjects that have been centrally important to artists, including abstraction, popular culture, feminist and queer aesthetics, and the recent examination of identity and its relationship to place. Together they demonstrate that craft-informed techniques of making carry their own kind of knowledge, one that is indispensable to a more complete understanding of the history and potential of art.

Hear from the artists and the exhibition's curators at whitney.org/Guide, or rent a Mobile Guide.

 600 Introduction

Escuche a los artistas y a las curadoras de la exposición en whitney.org/Guide, o alquila una guía.

 600 Introducción