

*Memory Through Fiber*

Family heirlooms provide us with not only a physical connection to the past, but an emotional and spiritual connection to our community. Textiles in particular have the ability to carry memories, and these memories can act as a historical record of family history. For many Jewish people, family heirlooms help to establish a connection to those who came before us and play a crucial role in the construction of Jewish identity on the basis on ancestry. This thesis project stems from not only a desire to re-discover an affinity for handmade objects, but to inspire new ways of making by observing the skilled craft work of eastern European women who passed these skills down to one another with intention.

*Memory Through Fiber* is a collection of skillfully and thoughtfully crafted heirloom knitted garments for babies inspired by these values. Each piece is intended to be treasured, and passed down from one generation to the next. This holistic approach of making considers the complete life cycle of a garment, which in turn produces a product that will withstand the test of time. Much like her ancestors, the designer strives to preserve skilled craft, value, and her own culture through textiles.