

Lauren E. Allen
Artist Statement

In my artwork, I address how I struggle to adapt to rigid systems of neurotypical forced conformity in our society. Moving one's body through this space and consistently forcing my brain to behave differently results in long-term traumatic effects. The need for a safe environment is highly valued and treasured. The search for this destination can be unexpected and can transform with the brain's desired needs. Creek systems have been a consistent place where I seek solace and a lightened feeling of existence. I can communicate the complex feelings I have towards these spaces and the void they fill through abstract and blurred images. Using fiber structures to package these experiences allows the viewer a sense of familiarity. String is a material that is used to build structures from clothing, building supplies and fine art. Grouped string is strong and formidable but becomes fragile and useless once it is unraveled. The perceived value is placed upon it when it is grouped together. Using string to create structural integrity within my pieces lends to ideas of fragility, strength and disposal, emotions neurodivergent persons and I often experience. The fiber structures allow these elements to become grounded in a tactile material that we have all experienced. It bridges the gap of understanding between those who experience the world at the baseline of what is perceived to be normal and those who do not.