

Louise Black

Looking at you, looking at her, looking at herself

Through physiology, multidisciplinary artist Louise Black (b.1992) investigates the female figure as a main catalyst point. In touch with issues of female identity, the body and the maternal as subject, Black investigates alternative methods of seeing and being seen. Through a selected use of mediums aiming to interrogate the link between gender, craft, and domesticity. A blurring of the distinction between interior and exterior, figurative representation and abstraction materialises. A practice inspired by human anatomy and the beautiful and the grotesque, influences and directs sculptural works. Appearing both familiar and unsettling simultaneously, at one with the human condition. Works in a visual narrative hover between birth and mortality, and the precarious thresholds in-between .

In a space which is both static and on the border of transition, an experimental performance is a vital component to the body of work. Materials and processes embedded within the installation are charged with both tenderness and violence, aiding a need to express internal emotions. With nods to the formalities of a surgical theatre, a dressing table, and a sewing loom, a practical workspace is served for labour, mending, looking, and reflecting. Guided by diagrams, quilted textiles are produced through the repetitive rhythm of a darning needle. Where ragged edges of Black's nails catch the delicate surfaces of the textiles, moments of caring and self-care are cautiously considered.

Black has been the recipient of the Society of Scottish Artists New Graduate Award 2021, shortlisted for Visual Arts Scotland Graduate Showcase Award and selected for The Royal Scottish Academy New Contemporaries 2023. In May 2022, she was awarded an RSA John Kinross Scholarship.