

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS: AR@K 2026, Reclaiming Art!
Kristiania University College, Oslo, Norway, 14-15 April 2026.

Threads as Voices of Memory: Visual methodology for narrating trauma between body, site of memory, and tactile nature of (in)tangible narratives

This reflection aims to demonstrate how using visual methodology in meaning-making artistic practice can transform traumatic memory into narrative memory and facilitate a social platform for healing, remembrance, and resilience. Most importantly, the examples of collective engagement in the process of political resistance and opposition to oppression through participatory initiatives contribute towards preserving traces of people and their history that are being systematically erased.

Theoretical framework explores selective use of memory and its authenticity, as well as dynamics between cultural and communicative memory as transformative factors towards collective narrative. Author's creative research practice formed by personal traumatic war-time experience from Bosnia and Herzegovina and ongoing investigation into human rights violations and oppressive regimes in other countries (South Africa, Chile, and Palestine) converge into a specific creative methodology. This shared principle of women as activists through vernacular activities has been visible and impactful around the world: the apartheid embroidery from South Africa; *arpilleras* from Chile; *tatreez*, the traditional embroidery in Palestine as a tool to fight systematic erasure and support resistance. With the focus on collaborative movements in textile art, a series of examples demonstrate social activism that is empowering and impactful, transcending geographical, ethnic and language borders.

Keywords: tactile memory, visual narrative, embodied memory, sites of memory.

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS: AR@K 2026, Reclaiming Art!
Kristiania University College, Oslo, Norway, 14-15 April 2026.

Selma Čatović Hughes

PhD researcher, Faculty of History, Culture and Arts

University of Turku, Finland

Email: scahug@utu.fi

Selma Čatović Hughes grew up in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Her ongoing research about memory began as a subconscious form of therapy, creating a collection of individual and collective voices. The focus in her artistic practice has been influenced by the extraordinary circumstances while growing up during the war, searching for the unusual, and challenging the notions of identity, place and collective memory. Selma has exhibited internationally and most recently she is a recipient of Public Prize at the Biennial de Ceramica d'Esplugues (Spain) and the Paul Ré Peace Prize, the Lifetime Achievement Award for Historical Healing Through Art (USA).

PROPOSED INSTALLATION: mixed-media textile.

*Overall size adjustable depending on available exhibition space

Unraveled for Gaza: Memory of erasure, resilience and resistance (2025). Inspired by the collective participatory project “Granny squares for Gaza children” led by Turku for Palestine. Unraveled threads from the original Bosnian carpet, which survived the 1992-1996 siege of Sarajevo, are used to crochet individual squares in remembrance of children killed in the ongoing genocide in Gaza, Palestine. Transforming personal traumatic memories and utilizing creative frameworks individual threads of memory are reassembled into a collective narrative that allows for documenting voices of the past and present and enabling public discourse about contested history, ongoing injustice and violation of human rights. Work and photos by Selma Čatović Hughes.

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS: AR@K 2026, Reclaiming Art!
Kristiania University College, Oslo, Norway, 14-15 April 2026.



turkuwithpalestine
Kirjakahvila

Granny squares for Gaza children

COLLECTION BOXES IN TURKU
@kirjakahvila
@koroinen
@sateenkaarikoto

CAN WE GET 1722 PIECES?
1 SQUARE=10 CHILDREN

SQUARE SIZE 15X15

SEW THEM TOGETHER
OR BRING THEM SEPARATELY
ANYTHING GOES!
Make the project your own.
You can download the
poster from the profile

DM for posting details

