

Wheels Keep on Turning by Liz Payne, 2023

Dimensions (approx unframed): 120 x 180 cm

The title of my artwork *Wheels Keep on Turning* is derived from a line from the song *Proud Mary* (1969) written by John Fogerty and recorded by Creedence Clearwater Revival, then later sung by Ike and Tina Turner (the lyric actually being *Big Wheel Keep on Turnin'*). The song was written after Fogerty was discharged from the National Guard and is essentially about leaving the mundane but steady reliability of the 'rat race' of the everyday and following your impulse and imagination and then finding escape.

This resonated with me in the planning and research of my work and themes I explore throughout my practice, where I aim to exceed the expectations of using stitch as a medium through the use of colour, scale, shape and form whilst blurring the distinctions between art, craft and design.

ARTIST STATEMENT

Exploring shape, pattern, texture and form through a kaleidoscopic colour palette I am always striving for my work to not only question perceptions and expectations of the choice of mediums I use, but of the everyday, and there is always a pursuit of breaking the rules from the predictable and conventional.

Inspired by botanical, astrological and topographic elements that encompasses the world around us, where shapes and patterns repeatedly occur from the microscopic to the macro cosmic, *Wheels Keep on Turning* explores various different shapes I see repeated in nature in particular the elements that comprise all matter that surrounds us, that transcends time, geography, unifies cultures and forms part of a universal language that is beyond the spoken word.

Exploring the idea of several 'cogs of the machine' floating as particles as a part of the cosmos. I have been drawn to the circular motif in particular, as a circle represents ideas of movement, spinning, evolution and the repeating cycles found all around us. In a circle, there is no beginning or end, but a continuous loop. In my work I am in constant pursuit of breaking from the cycle, or tradition of what is expected. For the background I have initially painted white cotton fabric with fluoro pink paint that forms the background of the rest of the work. Inspired by topographical maps, patterns made from thread and beads swirl in an organic pattern portraying high and low pressure systems which ties in with a connection to movement, the environment and a continental drift - that we and our actions are connected to the world - and our place within the cosmos.

