

Fio a fio
Graziela Guardino

Since ancient times, stories and mythologies involving fabrics and threads, interconnected with life cycles, have permeated different cultures. Civilizations such as the Greek, Egyptian, Baltic and Roman nurtured deep beliefs in deities that intertwine and give shape to the destiny of each living being. When personified, the conception of the 'thread of life' often takes the feminine form, and some of them are largely known as Moiras, Nornas and Parcas. In China, the 'Red Thread of Destiny' is often used as a poetic metaphor to represent deep and meaningful human experiences.

In the history of art, lines and fabrics appear in the form of tapestries, embroidery, paintings, and, in the contemporary, in installations and sculptures. Thread by thread, Graziela Guardino sews her trajectory in the visual arts with sensitivity and mastery using this millennial material – understanding and respecting its forms, tensions, and lightness. The artist builds and destroys, unlocks industrial rigidity and explores the limits of construction and deconstruction of the weave. Her works are the clear result of study and experimentation.

Immersed in a deep desire for art, the family environment surrounded her with creativity, especially her mother – dedicated to painting and ceramics production. Even though her first degree was in Visual Communication, her passion for art remained unabated. She continued painting, even though she didn't choose it initially. However, her path led her to a master's degree in Visual Arts in Hong Kong, where she embraced the challenge of exploring new techniques and materials. Starting with polyester, she later explored linen, where her talent flourished.

Made from natural fibers, the intrinsic fineness and delicacy stand out as a testament to the elegance that linen embodies. Fragility, which is far from being considered a weakness, exposes a singular beauty. The delicacy establishes a subtle balance between strength and softness, providing a tactile and visual experience that connects the artist to the ancestry of manual craftsmanship and the ancient deities that take care of our destinies – with the duality of the material that appears fragile, but resists the elements, wears, and ages with a grace that tells the story of its journey.

Handling this material, the artist realized that this fragility revealed in the fabric fibers becomes the guiding link for the expression of feelings originating from her personal experiences. This expression reflects the vulnerability of existence in our human bodies, which continually wear out until they return to their point of origin. Just like the journeys of life, the fabric follows its own narrative, leading her to understand it as the path of her own existence.

The titles of her works are extracted from poems in which she identifies herself and demonstrate how her production is intimately intertwined with her emotions, thoughts, doubts, and understanding of the world. This proves that the 'Red Thread of Destiny' by Graziela Guardino connects her to art – the most human way of expressing the poetry inherent in all of us."

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