



PĀKEHĀ SAMPLER WHEREIN THE CRAFTER SEAMS RESEARCH: AN EKPHRASTIC REVIEW OF CHRISTINE ROGERS'S "THE NEEDLE AS MEDIUM: USING EMBROIDERY TO SPEAK TO GHOSTS"

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Sandra L. Faulkner is Professor of Communication and Director of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at BGSU. She authored three chapbooks, *Hello Kitty Goes to College* (dancing girl press), *Knit Four, Make One* (Kattywompus), and *Postkarten aus Deutschland* (<http://liminalities.net/12-1/postkarten.html>), and a memoir in poetry, *Knit Four, Frog One* (Sense, 2014). Her latest books are *Real Women Run: Running as Feminist Embodiment* (Routledge) and *Poetic Inquiry: Craft, Method, and Practice*. (forthcoming, Routledge). She researches, teaches, and writes about relationships in NW Ohio where she lives with her partner, their warrior girl, and two rescue mutts.

Abstract: This poem is an ekphrastic response to Rogers's (2019) sampler. The author began by studying a photo of the sampler, and then wrote the first and last line of the poem using the following prompt: "Start by noting the emotional state of the artwork and conclude by looking back at the artwork and describing the pervading color." The author considered their own use of knitting as a way to feel connected to kin, and how knitting as a form of crafting is a way to tell family stories (Faulkner, 2014). The author studied the photo more and wrote more lines that spoke to crafting as research method, imagining the artist as researcher as family story teller. The poem is an embodied presentation of the author's response to Rogers, as poetry is the author's art medium, words and language their paintbrush.

Keywords: arts-based research; ekphrastic poetry; poetry as response

Pākehā Sampler Wherein the Crafter Seams Research

The hidden story stitched like a tradition,
a kiwi and a kangaroo
sampled with the twist of a chain –
looped vines of European letters
needle the Māori symbols.

The embroidered discovery
of the knots of culture fucking
– civilizing civilized arts –

Leaf Stitch to
 Chain Stitch to
 Back stitching the letters of ancestors,
tacking a Running Stitch pulls the work taut.

Can you see the European lady upbringing
in the Satin stitched kowhai flowers?

Can you see me sister, brother, father?

The Diagonal Stitch filling the frame
of a whaler, drowned?

Sew your research as women's work –
the work of relationship,
the doing of relationships
threading the needle of connection.

The stitches accumulate
and darn the holes of memory,
the evidence of cloth, the great-great
grandmother and granddaughter bleed
the blood orange of slow rage and burnt embers.

REFERENCES

Faulkner, S. L. (2014). *Family stories, poetry, and women's work: Knit four, frog one*. Rotterdam, NL: Sense/Brill Publishers.

Rogers, C. (2019). The needle as medium: Using Embroidery to speak to ghosts. *Art/Research International: A Transdisciplinary Journal*, 4(1), 127-152.