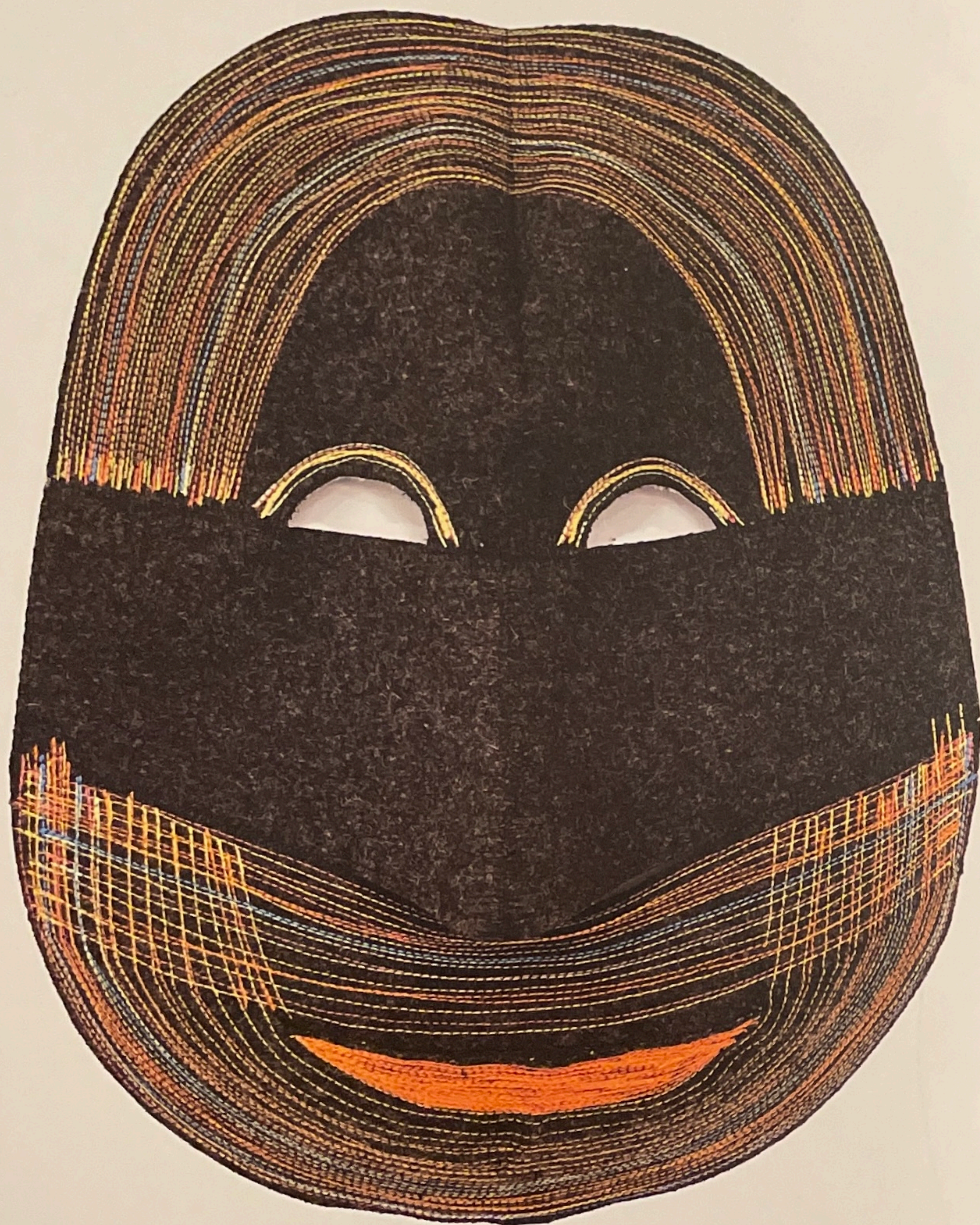


**NYT M**

**NEW YORK TEXTILE MONTH 4**

**TALKING  
TEXTILES**



# 01 INTO THE WILD

Never before have textiles been so unruly and as innovative. Fibres are like strange fruits, with origins that stem from the Earth as well as from the sea; and therefore exist at the core of renewal and sustainability. Today, yarns are rebellious and want to break free, knits are ungovernable and look as if they're falling apart, and wovens are headstrong and out of control, meandering into three dimensions.

The textile domain moves fast forward into the future, sampling colour from the garden and waste from the kitchen, with matter from kelp and mushrooms and more. High tech and slow craft merge effortlessly into new hybrids, able to combine additional functions. The impetuous pace of innovation deals with folding, coiling, braiding and knotting; rethinking textiles first invented in the Bronze Age. Archaeology and anthropology are major sources of both knowledge and inspiration, as more and more textiles take on cultural and humanitarian endeavours.

Textiles are talking loud and clear, becoming activists pleading for peace, fighting fear and interrogating mutinous mental states. Much needs to be healed in today's society, from questions surrounding rape and abuse to the challenges of our own species' survival. Awareness is growing fast, giving voice to the textile world at large, obtaining new materials, designing new systems, encoding new programmes and adorning in a recalcitrant manner. Several international exhibitions dedicated to Planet Earth\* have been clamouring a wake-up call; reaching larger audiences, teaching new generations and convincing die-hard sceptics. Analysing the lament and dissecting the pain while proposing other design solutions, giving us hope for our future in a moment of mild optimism. We might be able to conquer our destiny after all. The assertive artistic vision of contemporary weavers and designers heralds a heroic attempt to save the field, to grow the sphere and to spread the word.

Lidewij Edelkoort  
Dean of Hybrid Design Studies,  
Founder of the MFA Textiles,  
The New School / Parsons

\* Earth Matters, curated by Lidewij Edelkoort and Philip Fimmano, commissioned by Artipelag, Stockholm (2015) and touring to Textielmuseum Tilburg (2017) and the inaugural Biennale du Textile Contemporain, Oloron Sainte-Marie (2018);

Broken Nature: Design Takes on Human Survival, curated by Paola Antonelli at Milan's Triennale (through September 1, 2019);

Nature—Cooper Hewitt Design Triennial, curated by the museum's Caitlin Condell, Andrea Lipps, Matilda McQuaid and Caroline O'Connell, with Gene Bertrand and Hans Gubbels from Cube (until January 20, 2020).

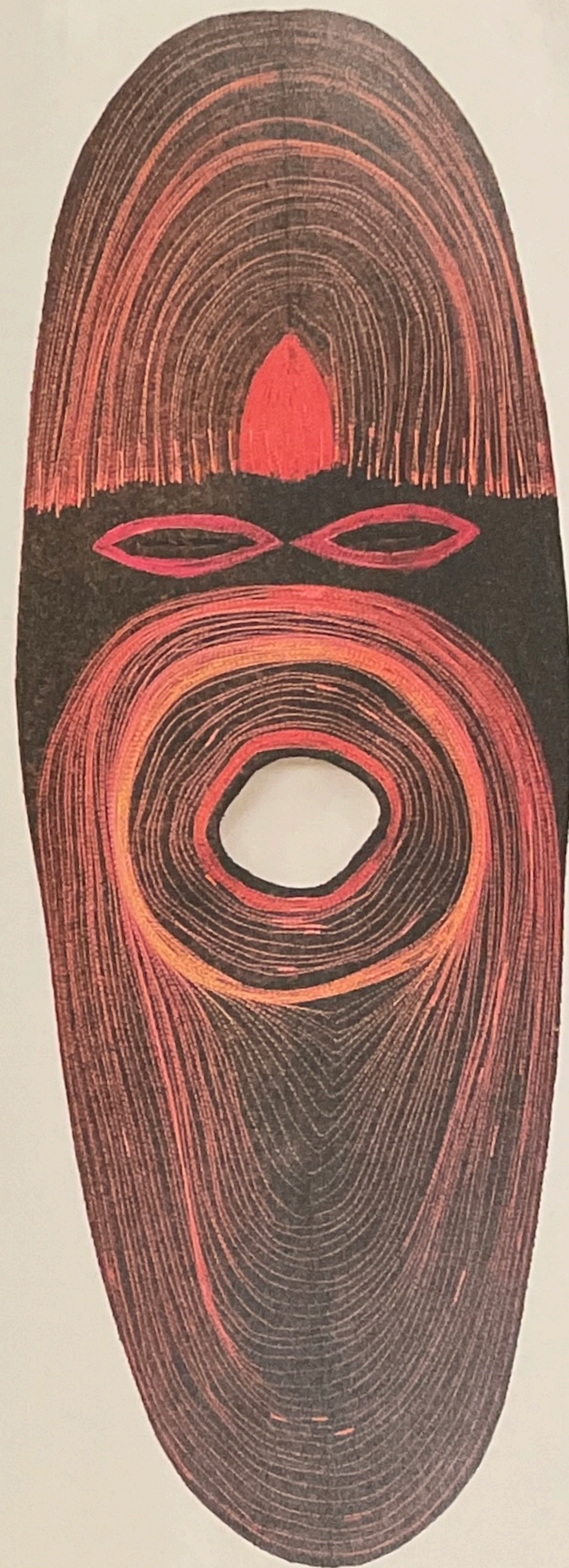


creation & text **Elodie Blanchard**  
photos **Elodie Blanchard Studio**

## MASKED FEELINGS <sup>02</sup>

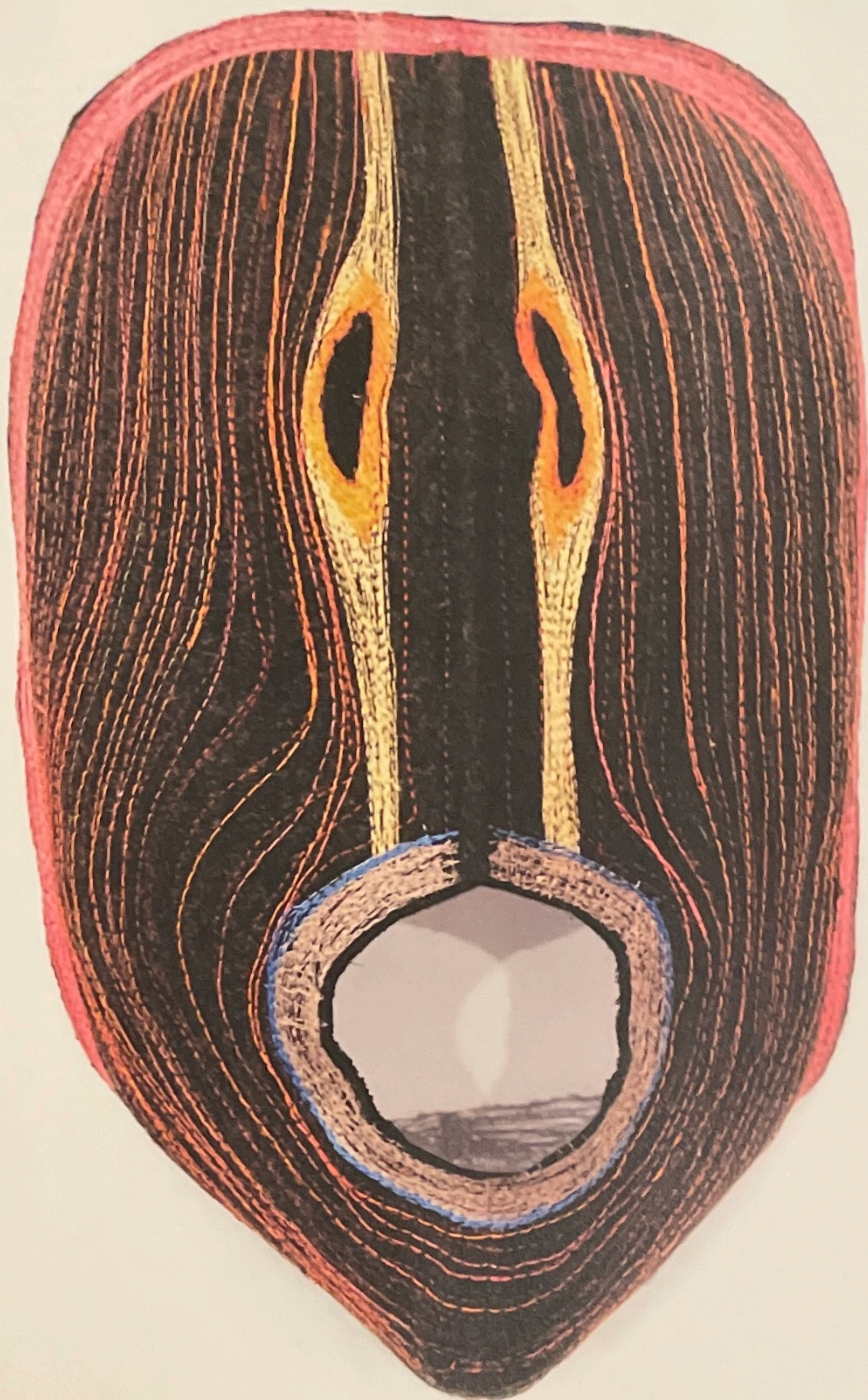
My work often uses humour and joy, in complicated and perhaps deceptive ways, inviting the audience to participate in a serious kind of play. I create environments where the viewer is slightly outside of their comfort zone - areas inspired by the natural world that are equal parts serious and grotesque.

Through material exploration, repurposing, and a near-meditative process of repetition, the discarded and the commonplace are transformed into fantastical objects and playful spaces that give us permission to explore our ambiguous relationship to nature, to others, and to ourselves. By constructing large-scale visual environments, and tactile embroidered objects, I find value in the unwanted. My process is largely informed by technical experimentation, developing new methods of construction for each project. Masked Feelings is a series of stitched caricatures, encouraging interaction, self-reflection, and self-discovery. Which mask can you relate to? And why?





PARALYZED, 2019 12" W x 18" H, wool felt polyester thread





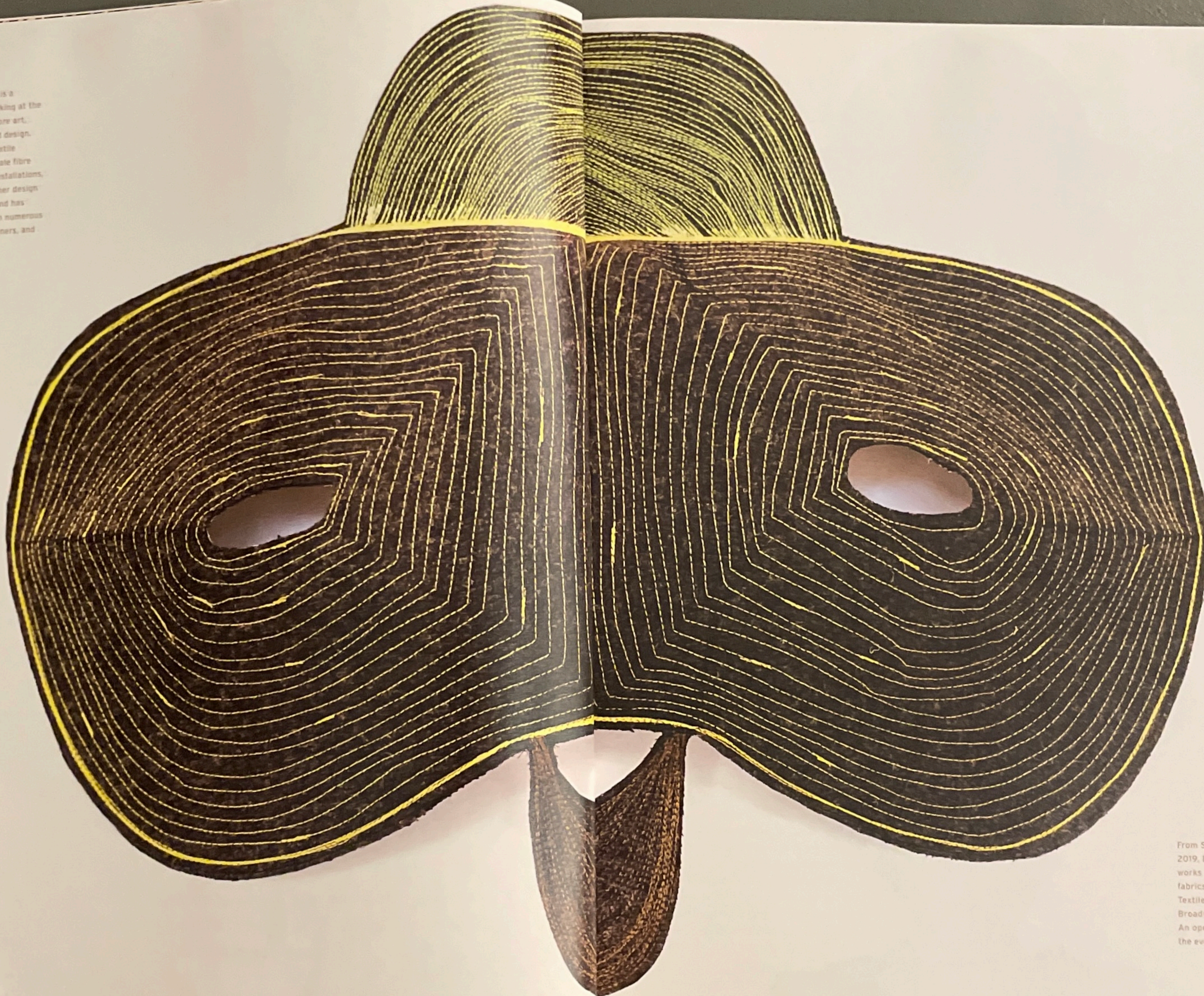


ASTONISHED, 2019. © W. A. J. H. and felt polyester threads



**Masked Feelings is a series of stitched caricatures, encouraging interaction, self-reflection, and self-discovery. which mask can you relate to? and why?**

Elodie Blanchard is a French artist working at the intersection of fibre art, performance, and design. Known for her textile designs, large-scale fibre sculptures and installations, she established her design studio in 2005 and has collaborated with numerous architects, designers, and brands.



From September 17-26, 2019, Blanchard will exhibit works made from scrap fabrics at the HBF & HBF Textiles showroom (920 Broadway, 8th floor). An opening takes place on the evening of September 25.

FROM

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Etienne Blanchard: NERVOUS, 2019 wool felt polyester thread, 16" x 23"

