

KATHIE HALFIN

Kathie Halfin is a textile, performance and an installation artist (b. Crimea, Ukraine). Halfin's work involves labor-intensive, physical processes and meditates on complex multilingual and multicultural aspects of the identity. As a Crimean, Ukrainian-born, Israeli raised artist, Kathie's work incorporates family history, cross-cultural mythologies and rituals, language patterns and woven messages.

Kathie Halfin showed her work at the Bronx Museum AIM Biennial, A.I.R. Gallery, Itinerant Performance Festival in Smack Mellon, Knockdown Center: Sunday Series, Art In Odd Places Performance Festival, Clemente Soto Velez Cultural Center, the Immigrant Artist Biennial, NARS Foundation, the Woodstock Artists Association and Museum among others. Halfin accomplished fellowships and residencies at Vermont Studio Center, Wassaic Project, Cha-North Art Residency and the Bronx Museum AIM Program.

Kathie Halfin's current solo show "The Web Of Magic And Mundane" includes an installation of hand woven textiles. Halfin's work focuses on the fiber-based medium of sculptural weaving and utilizes textile as a code. Kathie uses a Morse Code in several languages to create words and sentences.

Creation of her coded, handmade fabrics is a meditative act of remolding of social construct in the self and vice versa. Kathie's weavings reveal language as a powerful tool that shapes our identity and our way of being and becoming. In the exhibition, Halfin highlights the nuances of speech by contemplating on her Morse coded woven words and short sentences. Kathie weaves insights, affirmations and mantras that serve as reminders and empower their keepers.

The Morse Code that Kathie is utilizing in her weaving is directly referring to her past as her grandfather was a pilot communicating by the means of Morse Code signals in the Soviet Army during the WWII. Halfin is referencing the writing and activism of Masha Gessen and Ursula K. Le Guin by deliberating about the meaning of words in relation to autocratic governments that enforce reality by applying words to invert the meaning. Constructing her fabrics that associate with the early 20th century conflicts and the activism of nowadays, Kathie invites the viewer to look closely at the ways the language can be used to incite resistance, empower, and heal.

By drawing attention to sensorial, ritualistic and temporal aspects of the coded message, Kathie's weavings create space for more holistic and slow ways to define and judge words. She seeks to present language as a pattern, as a movement, and as an open ended space that serves, empowers, and liberates.