

# GALERIE *B*LANCHE

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## BIO:

Leisa Rich is an experimental fiber/mixed media artist who transforms new and found materials using a variety of historical and contemporary techniques including sewing, weaving, dyeing, printmaking, heat transfer, melting, 3D printing, laser engraving, and free motion stitching- a way of "painting" and building texture using thread on a sewing machine.

Rich has Master of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Fine Arts, and Bachelor of Education in Art degrees, has exhibited in notable museums and galleries, and won numerous awards. She is a published author. Rich has also taught art for 48 years.

Rich's works are in the permanent collections of Delta Airlines Inc., Hilton Hotels, Inc., Emory Healthcare/Women's Health, Kámm Foundation, Dallas Museum of Art, University of Texas, University of North Texas, The Works: Atlanta, and in international private collections. Leisa Rich lives in Canada.

## STATEMENT:

As a baby, I would run a satin trimmed blanket through my fingers from one end to the other before I could fall asleep. Early childhood years were mostly spent in the hospital due to illness and deafness, dressing Barbie and Ken in clothes my mom made, and finger painting in the art room. Tactile sensations were there when sound was not.

Later, I spent Saturdays at Dad's electrical construction company shop making bell wire crowns and copper pipe sculptures. Growing up in Canada, I was outside all the time: I walked in verdant forests, swam in sparkling lakes, skied frosty slopes, and shuddered in awe during tremendous lightening storms. I discovered art at 15 due to another illness and have spent decades since making fiber works that have found form in visceral art, viewer-interactive experiences, and pseudo-Utopian spaces that create a hyper-real world. I have sought to convey the beauty of nature, how humans exist symbiotically with it, the impact of negative environmental challenges, and our interdependence.

In October 2020, in the middle of political upheaval and Covid, I virtually purchased a 96-year-old farmhouse on three acres on a rural St. Lawrence River Island accessible only by ferry and moved back to Canada after decades in the U.S. and abroad. I am surrounded by deer, fox, coyote, mink, birds, frogs, and raccoons as they shyly traverse, graze, sing, and flit my land, and butterflies, flowers and gently blowing grasses. This remote experience has led me to create fiber/mixed media works that tell their story - which is also ours - of how precious and lovely it is to be alive.