

PRESS RELEASE

HELEN STONE



Threading Time/ Laundresses & Char Women



My mother died when I was young and, with her, any connection to her side of the family – I am embarrassed to say I didn't even know my grandmother's name. I had no photos, no documents, no mementoes.

Family history research revealed sad tales of recurring loss, hardship and broken connections. Many of my women ancestors – laundresses, char women, and maids – were dead, widowed or institutionalised while still in their 30s.

Trousseau is a collection of antique linens and a census-style document in a vintage laundry box that traces their paths through the streets of Walthamstow and east London. It is a family portrait of sorts.

These were strong, resilient women and I have told their stories using simple hand stitching. It is women's work, manual labour, but it was a privilege to sit and spend time with them this way.

Times & Places

I will be showing *Trousseau* at two venues during E17 Art Trail 2019:

- First under the banner of *Threading Time* as part of an Open House with **Lynda McDonald** – a local textile artist who explores the state of the natural world through stitch.
- In the final week, I will be showing at **Vestry House Museum**. It is where I researched some of my ancestry, aided by the helpful and knowledgeable archives team. My research is ongoing.

57 Howard Road E17 4SH [80]

Sat 1 & Sun 2 June 2019

Sat 8 & Sun 9 June 2019

10am to 7pm

+

Fri 7 June 2019

12noon to 7pm

Vestry House Museum [153b]

Vestry Road E17 9NH

12 to 16 June 2019

10am to 5pm





About

Helen Stone is a former interiors magazine editor and recent graduate of The Art Academy London, where she gained a first in Contemporary Portraiture. Her work looks at the state we're in and she often uses multi-layered formats and mixed media to explore different aspects of a sitter or to allow a story to unfold.

She has exhibited in London and the South East and is winner of the Expert Panel Vote in the Liberty Specialty Markets Art Awards 2018-19. Her work is in private collections in the UK, Spain and Norway.

Press requests

Please email helenstoneart@outlook.com for more info and hi res images.



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