

Evelyn Beck

Sewing has been part of Evelyn Beck's life since childhood, when she learned the craft and made many of her own clothes. After retiring from her college teaching career, she began exploring various art mediums and eventually returned to fabric, which became the ideal vehicle for her artistic expression. She says she is drawn to its texture and malleability.

Much of her inspiration comes from the swimming pools of her childhood in South Florida. Water is a recurring theme in Beck's work, as is movement – whether a dancing couple or a speeding train. She also explores themes of community and connection, as seen in a piece depicting soldiers being rescued by a helicopter.

Her process begins on the computer, often with her own photographs. She manipulates the images until she lands on the ideal semi-abstract composition, then prints the pattern and transfers it onto freezer paper. From there, she cuts out the hundreds of overlapping pieces that will become her textile collage, fusing each one to a fabric background as she works. She finishes the piece by quilting in on her sewing machine, adding depth and texture to the final composition.

Beck is a graduate of Florida State University with undergraduate and graduate degrees in English. She has exhibited her work in shows in South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia. She received an Emerging Artist Grant from the South Carolina Arts Commission and an artist grant from the City of Clemson Arts Center. Her pieces have appeared on the covers of the 2022 and 2026 Multifaith Calendars published by Canada's Multifaith Action Society and on the brochure cover of the 2020 Greater Greenville Master Gardeners Symposium. She is a founding member of the Upcountry Fiber Artists and lives in Anderson, SC.



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*I love the impression left by semi-
abstraction, the way it registers as a
particular experience but emphasizes
emotions rather than concrete details.
Though my work looks a lot different than
theirs, I am most influenced by abstract
expressionists like Lee Krasner. My goal is
always to communicate how life feels.*

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