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P. Giovanini-Morris, *Windows & Doors*, 2009
Hand embroidery with bead embellishments. DMC floss.
Beads; 10.5"x10.5"

Embroidery is the medium I choose to create narratives on the human condition and my journey through it. The vibrant colors of the floss and the textures I am able to create utilizing different thickness of floss and various stitches create a dialogue that invites the viewer to look deeper into the work to explore the basics of technique and the implied messages in the imagery. The stitching process is meditative, repetitive, tedious, and ultimately rejuvenating. By the time of completion, I have arrived at a satisfactory answer to the question I was contemplating.

Much of my work explores relationships and biological processes that occur in the body and brain. The human emotions of joy, hope, grief, loss, and psychiatric pathologies are issues I continue to encounter and contemplate.

My Mother, I Am concerns the relationship of mothers and daughters, specifically my relationship with my mother, a repeating theme in my work. Mothers can be extremely loving and supporting as well as critical, cruel, and competing.

Windows and Doors is another piece that was sparked by my elderly mother's decline into Alzheimer's dementia. This work explores the concept of memory. The biochemical explanation of the release of neurotransmitters at the neuron synapses in the brain allows for registration and encoding of the event, retainment, and ultimately the retrieval of the memory. Metaphorically, the "windows and doors" in this brain speak visually to the places I imagine my "snapshots," or memories, of personal life events are placed for safe keeping, allowing for later reflection and meaning in my life journey.

Going Under for the Third Time explores the concept of hope in the face of sadness and despair. The work speaks to the forces occurring on the earth—the pollution of the land, waters, and atmosphere, as well as personal hardship and loss. I believe in a higher power in the universe, a creator and destroyer, the human need to call on the divine in times when one is unable to control the forces around you, and on the hope that this intervening force will restore balance, harmony and peace.

Shattered is a piece about psychiatric illness and culminated from my experiences working in a psychiatric facility with adolescents. These individuals suffered from major depression, schizophrenia, and personality disorders. While working on this piece, I was exploring the various pathologies these children exhibited and their inability to control what lies inside them.

In closing, I invite the viewer to explore the colors, textures, and variety of stitches which create the imagery embedded in my embroidery. My greatest desire is for the viewer to be able to connect with my work.



P. Giovanini-Morris, *Shattered*, 2005
Hand embroidery with bead/mirror/
acrylic paint embellishments. DMC
embroidery floss; 6.5" X 6"

P. Giovanini-Morris,
Going Under for the Third Time, 2007
Hand embroidery with bead
embellishments. DMC floss, beads.
Gold purl; 6" X 7"





P. Giovanini-Morris,
My Mother, I Am. 2011
Hand embroidery.
Machine embroidery.
DMC floss, silk ribbon,
gold cord; 7" x 10"