

## Spring 2021 – Cycling



Noelle Rasmussen *Hope*

Hi Everybody,

I hope you're all enjoying longer days and unfurling leaves!

Two ideas cycling through my mind:

**Dampeners** – Sometimes life dims for a bit. A friend dies and inexplicably my art shrivels. I wish I could say it's come back in a rush like a fall down a waterfall. I can say a space appeared where I can breathe, clear off my desk, read a book, watch the days become longer and brighter, and embroider small pieces.

**Awakeners** – Coloring with a friend on Zoom is inspirational. As she moves art into her daily life it excites me too. Also, an accountability partner has encouraged me through this slow time even as she herself is extremely busy. I have found making insignificant pieces like the pillow above are surprisingly significant. After working in mosaics and photography I love the feel of fabric through my fingers and bright colors. I made the pillow cover with the hope of spring, the hope of the vaccine and the hope to step forward into a new day.

**Cycles**—moving through seasons. As one friend dies unknown, another friend grows in her creativity. I cheer this growth, a seed of blooms coming.

Before life took a turn I was inspired by immigrants and their hope for a fresh start. I started a series on my own immigration. Here are the first three images in the series. Leaving home, driving the 15-foot U-Haul with my husband and dog, setting up camp—these are the first three days of our

journey across the US and into Canada. They went quickly, full of excitement, and grand scenery. The cyanotype photographs are meant to represent memories. The embroidered butterflies represent hope for the future but also the uncertainty of the landing. Is this my place now? The effects of uprooting and moving after 20 years are taking time to digest.



Noelle Rasmussen *Immigration 1, 2, 3*

**Art is always on display at my website <https://noellerasmussen.com> and some of it is for sale.**

If you would like to receive a newsletter straight to your inbox 4 times a year with the seasons let me know by replying to this email or sign up at <https://noellerasmussen.com/news>.

What do you think? What helps you get started again after life throws a curveball? I love hearing from you! You can send me an email at [gentlebeaststudio@gmail.com](mailto:gentlebeaststudio@gmail.com)

Thanks for reading!

Noelle