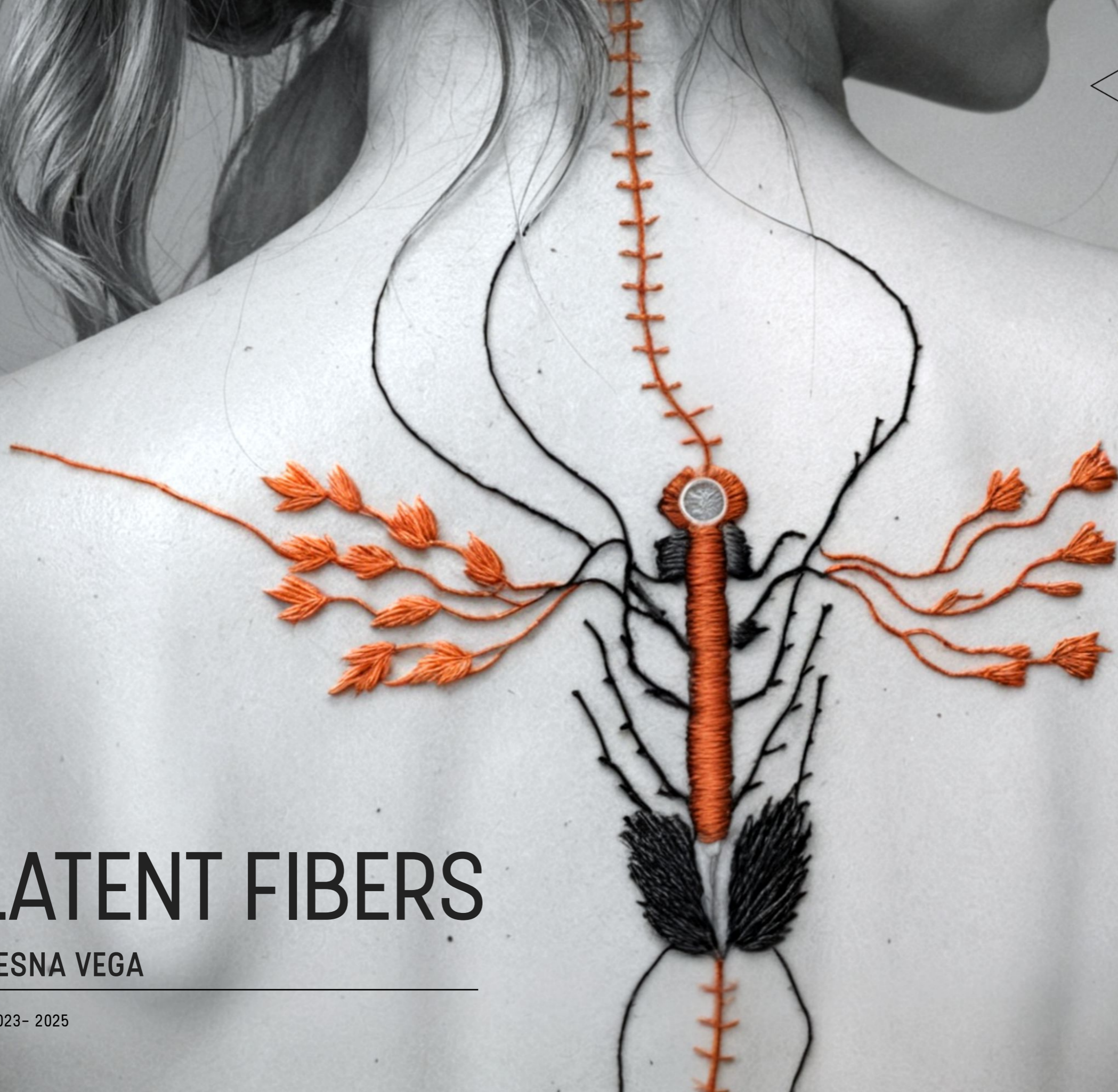


LATENT FIBERS

VESNA VEGA

2023- 2025



Generative Body Embroidery

- Vesna Vega / Artist

- Borut Vega / AR programming

- Medium / AI-Generated Interactive Embroidery – embroidery on canvas, digital print on canvas, wood, cotton canvas, AR viewing application

- Tools / Stable Diffusion, Automatic 1111, ComfyUI, Affinity Photo, DaVinci Resolve

- Series / Series of 11

- Dimensions / 350 X 200 X 20 mm

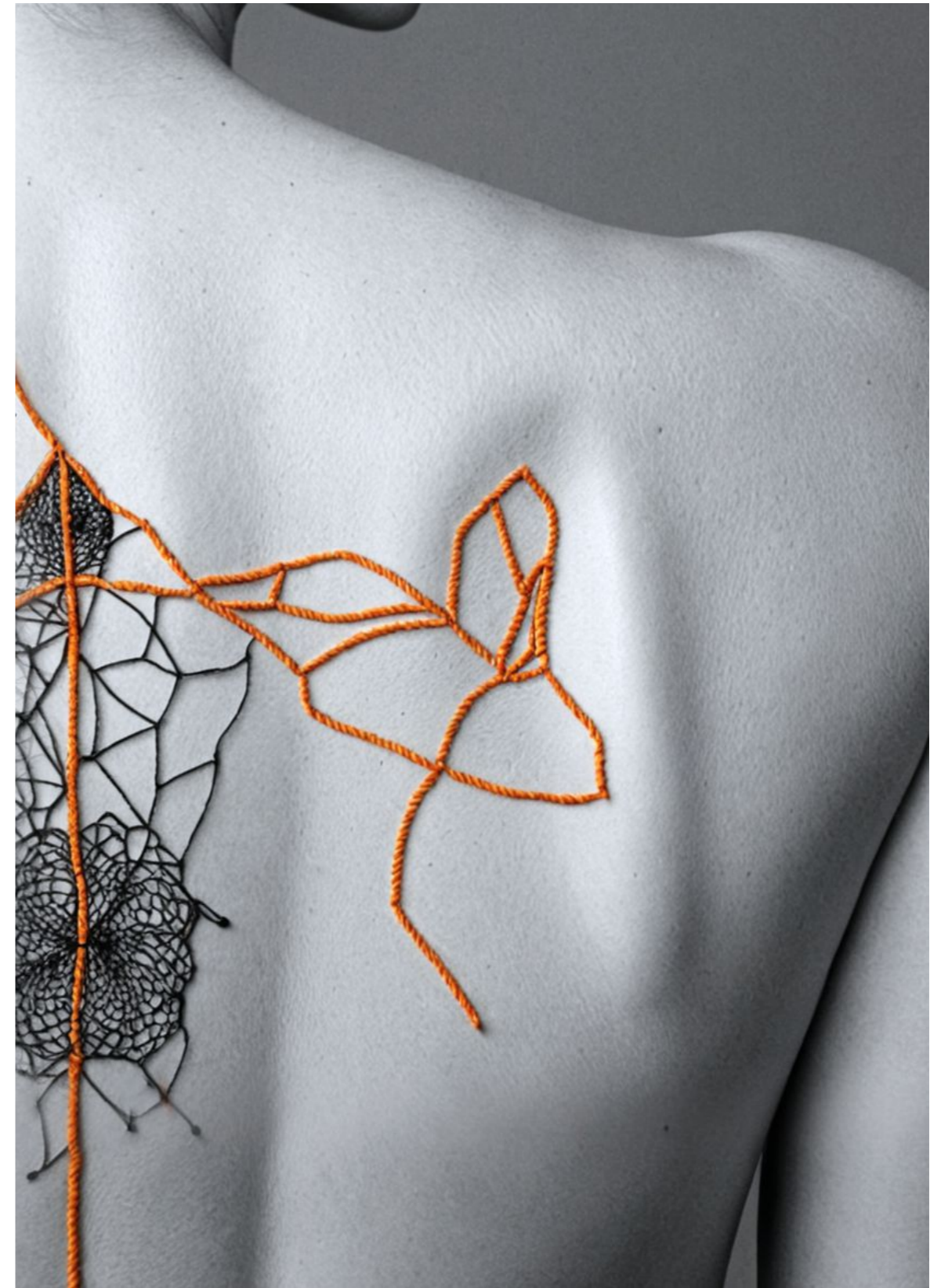
- Production / Interference

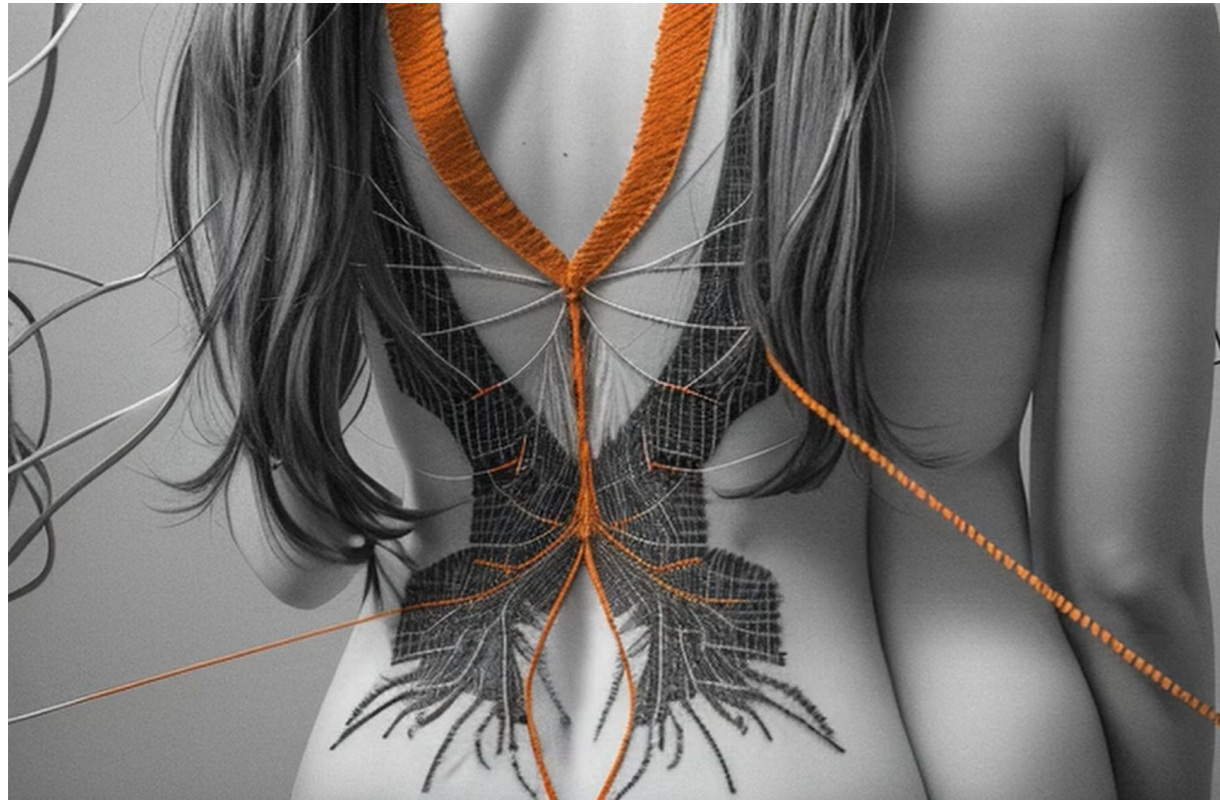
- Year of making / 2025

Latent Fibers

The Latent Fibers series merges the therapeutic and activist power of embroidery with AI and AR technologies. This fusion creates a space where art can be both a personal tool for healing and a platform for addressing social justice issues. For the artist, embroidery became a lifeline as a child abuse survivor and, as an adult, has been reignited as a powerful medium for transforming trauma into art. Embroidery also holds deep feminist significance, historically serving as one of the few forms of expression available to women when their voices were silenced.

This series explores healing through art, using embroidery as a medium for personal restoration and the reclamation of lost memories. It examines feminist history and the power of expression for women, while critically addressing the tension between human creativity and AI's limitations. The work delves into the ethical implications of AI, particularly how it amplifies gender and racial discrimination, and critiques societal complicity in ignoring hidden trauma. The body is portrayed as an archive of memory and pain, with augmented reality revealing layers of suppressed histories. Ultimately, the artist calls for societal change, justice, and accountability in confronting both personal and systemic injustices.





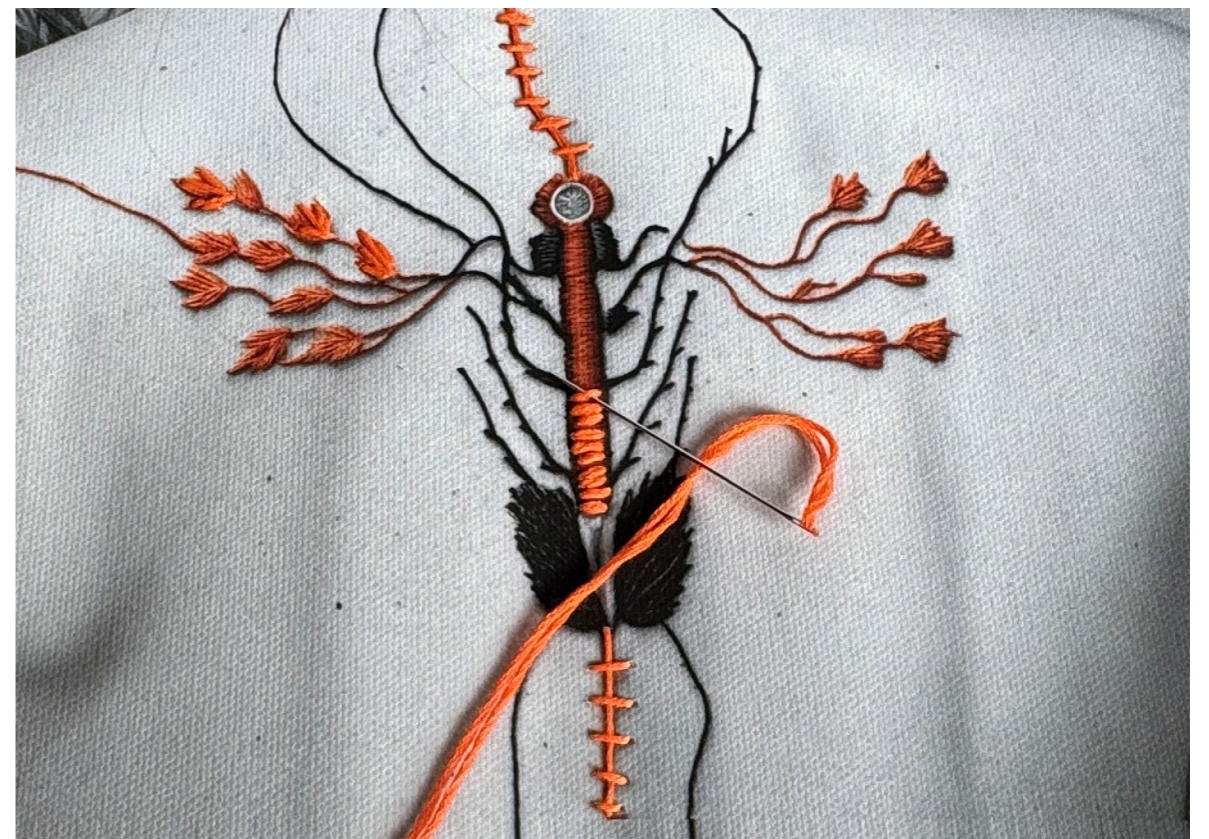
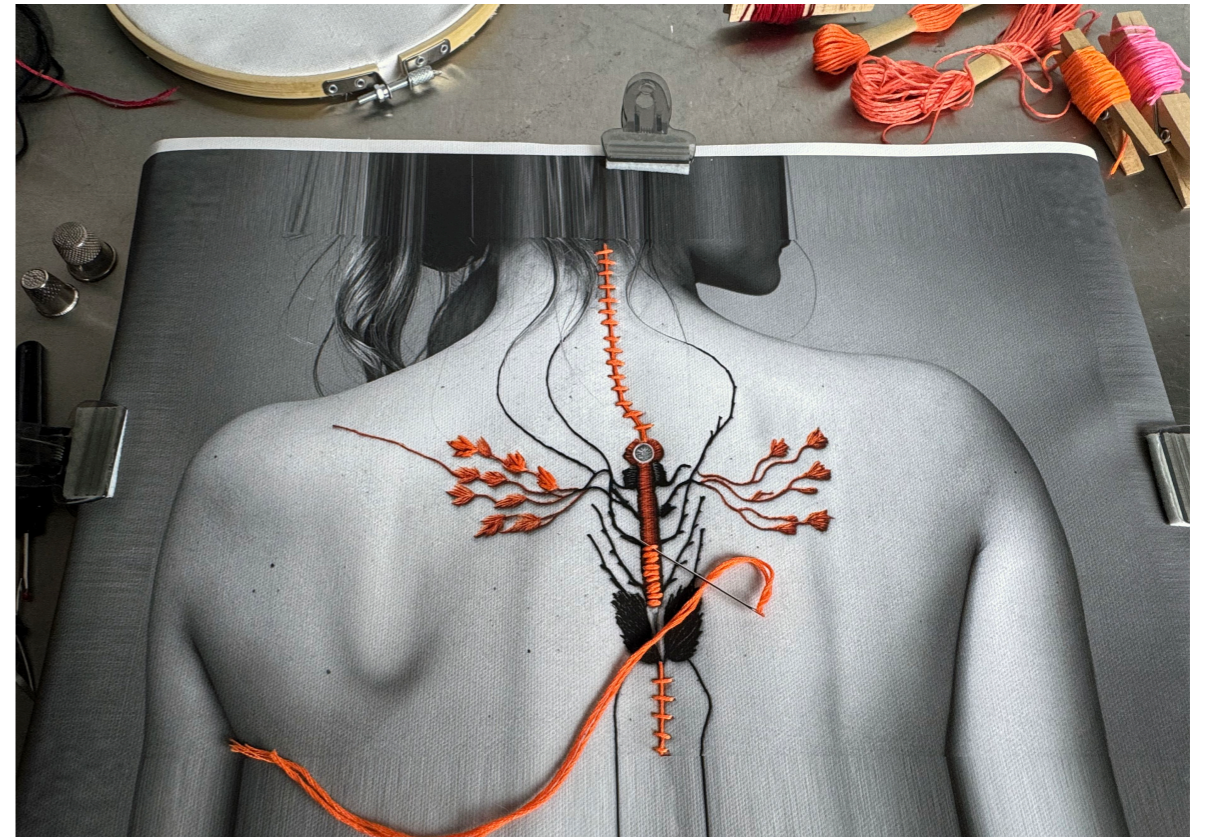
Push-and-pull between imagination and AI's limitations

Creative process is shaped by an ongoing struggle between my vision and the limitations of AI technology. I start with a single image seed, feeding it into a code to generate thousands of frames, each one evolving slightly from the last. It's like stop-motion animation, morphing pixels, trying to coax something raw and alive out of an algorithm that wants to make everything clean and polished.

I deployed AI-driven generative models to create body embroidery images and frame-by-frame animations. The pipeline started with a photograph of my back as the first seed image, which was processed through Stable Diffusion for iterative frame generation. I utilized Automatic1111 UI for fine-tuned prompt-based image synthesis and ComfyUI for a node-based, modular workflow to control the animation sequence and style consistency. I spend months tweaking prompts, adjusting parameters, doing anything to break the sterility. Even then, I struggle to get the results I want. AI refuses to render certain things—female nipples, fat bodies, old skin, women of color. It struggles to render bare skin, draping

exposed backs in fabric. By resisting the unveiling of the human form, it becomes difficult to achieve the desired results. It forces me into endless hacks: tricking the model, stitching elements together, sometimes manually editing frames to reclaim what the AI erases. I manually refine and manipulate the initial photos, adjusting details to enhance the seed image for AI processing. After generating the frame-by-frame animation with Stable Diffusion, I edit the frames and refine loops to ensure smooth transitions in the final animation.

In this obsessive, but also addicting process, every frame I wrestle into existence feels like a small rebellion, a step closer to bending the AI to my vision instead of the other way around. Creating AI embroidery process feels like stitching together fragments of lost memories—both an act of creation and restoration. Just like memory forensics, where I piece together traces of the past to reconstruct what was once known, my embroidery brings digital patterns to life, forming something tangible from scattered data. Each stitch is like a recovered fragment, a moment rediscovered, carefully woven into something meaningful. The way AI generates patterns reminds me of how my memory works—sometimes clear, sometimes distorted, but always carrying traces of something deeper. My embroidery isn't just art; it's a process of remembering, of reclaiming lost pieces of myself, translating intangible memories into something physical and permanent. The color feels urgent, intense, like a memory waiting to be recovered.



Embroidery as a therapeutical and activist tool

As a child victim of sexual abuse, embroidery and crocheting were my ways to escape, heal, channel anger, and survive. Each stitch held a piece of my anger, my pain, my resilience. Now, as an adult survivor, I've reawakened my connection with embroidery—not just to heal, but to weave light from darkness, to turn wounds into art, and to feel the quiet rhythm of progress and movement in every loop and knot. The woman's back is a site of transformation, embodying the concept of the body as a canvas upon which history, trauma, and healing are inscribed. The neon-like, radiant patterns and fibers evoke a sense of vivid contrast, where fluorescent threads pierce through the corporeal space, symbolizing the emergence of hope amidst the shadows of the past.

For centuries, needlework was one of the few forms of expression available to women when we were denied the right to read, think, or speak freely. This historical juxtaposition makes embroidery even more meaningful and impactful as a tool for activism.

Female body and AI

The body is presented as a repository of memory, trauma, and healing. Using AI to generate embroidery patterns on the female body brought up several challenges due to AI-driven discrimination and gender inequality, exposing how technology often amplifies deeper societal injustices. Many AI systems are trained on large datasets that frequently contain historical prejudices, including gender-based disparities. Since these datasets are drawn from real-world human behavior and decisions, they tend to mirror existing stereotypes, prejudices, and inequalities. If that data is biased, the AI will inevitably reinforce those patterns, perpetuating harmful cycles. Ultimately, fixing AI biases against women is not just a technical problem — it's a societal one. Tackling it will require both technological solutions and a commitment to building a more equitable world in which AI serves everyone fairly.

Revealing a hidden cycle

The image of a woman's back stands as a silent testimony to society's refusal to confront the reality of childhood sexual abuse—an unspoken complicity found in ignored research, disregarded statistics, and hushed conversations. It is also the embodiment of my family's deliberate concealment, their silence a thread that wove itself into my life, leaving my own daughters vulnerable, unshielded. Powerless, I became both a witness and a victim to a cycle I could not break.

I turned away from my abuser, my father, unwilling to meet his eyes, unwilling to acknowledge what had been done to me. In my avoidance, I buried the memories, refusing to look made them disappear. But memory of trauma lingers beneath the surface of my body, like a looped animation, repeating in the hidden corners of my being. The body holds its own archive of suffering. The womb, the ovaries, the very system that sustains life pulses with a rhythm shaped by violation. The scars do not fade; they seep into muscle and marrow, weaving themselves into my breath, my posture, my existence. Through the lens of Augmented Reality (AR), these scars unfold the repeating generational trauma that exists hidden beneath the surface. It grants the viewer the power to witness what has long been ignored, denied, or suppressed.

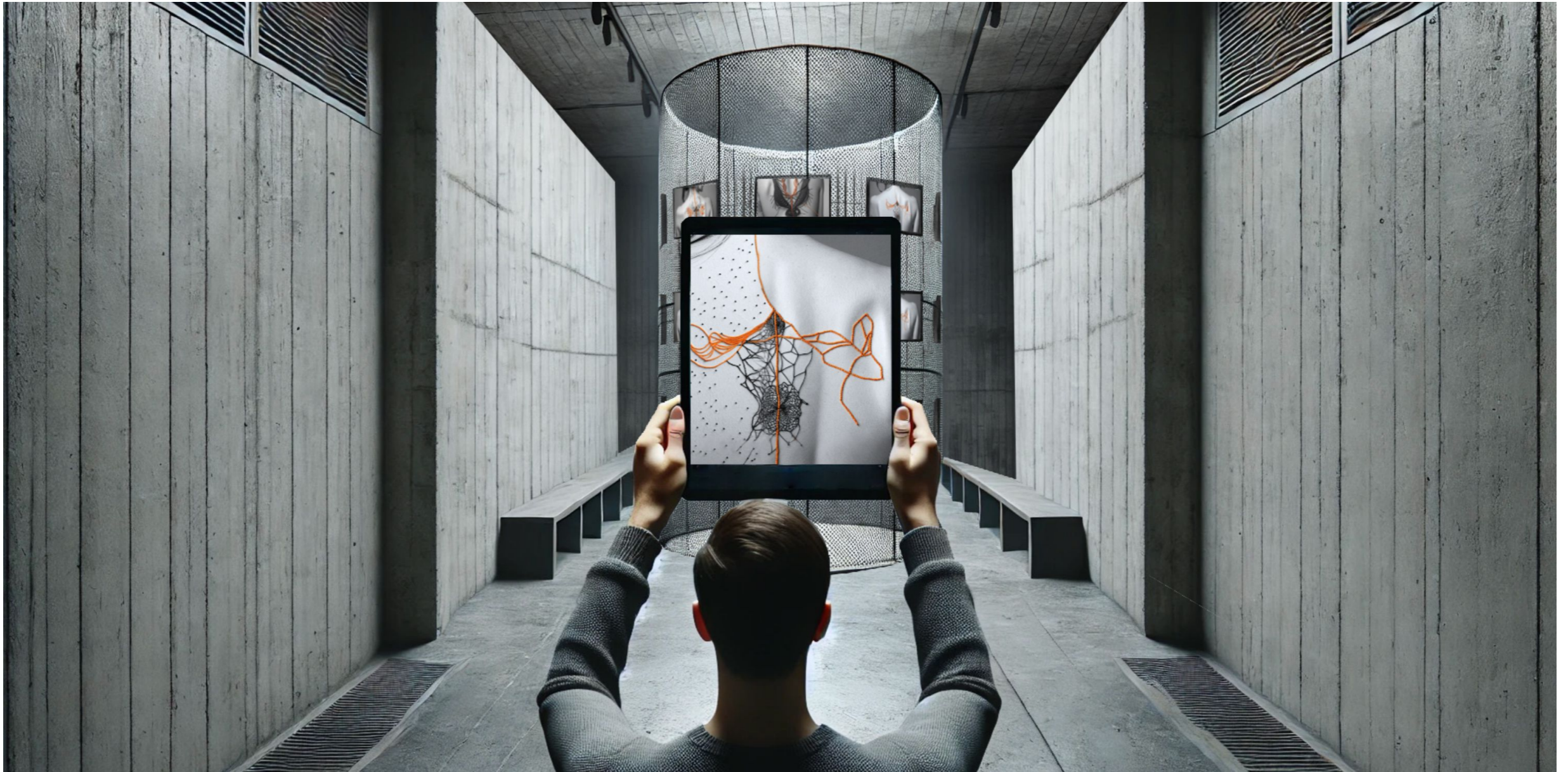
“But witnessing is not enough. This is an urgent call to shatter the silence, to demand change, to hold perpetrators accountable, and to dismantle the systems that enable abuse. Now is the moment to confront, to expose, and to rebuild a world where no more backs are turned.”



Embroidery is displayed on the cylindrical mesh structure, allowing multiple viewpoints and ensuring accessibility for all visitors.

Form of Interaction and Technical Realization

The exhibition presents eleven embroidered artworks, each serving as an augmented reality (AR) trigger. The audience is invited to engage with the artworks through an immersive digital experience facilitated by an AR mobile application provided by the artist. Visitors can also use a mobile devices provided in the exhibition space.



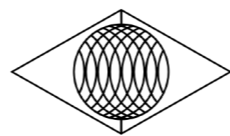
Each embroidery piece acts as a visual marker that, when scanned via the app, activates a unique animation associated with that specific work.

Form of Interaction

- Upon entering the exhibition space, visitors receive access to a dedicated AR app on their mobile devices and a headphones.
- Each embroidery piece acts as a visual marker that, when scanned via the app, activates a unique animation associated with that specific work.
- Viewers can freely move around the cylindrical mesh structure, allowing a 360-degree exploration of both the physical and digital layers of the artwork.
- Each embroidery animation is accompanied by a corresponding sound composition that enhances the narrative and emotional depth of the piece. Headphones are provided to ensure an immersive audio experience.
- Visitors are encouraged to interact at their own pace, discovering the layers of visual and auditory elements within the exhibition space.

Technical Realization

- The AR experience is powered by a custom mobile application compatible with both iOS and Android..
- Embroidery is displayed on the cylindrical mesh structure, allowing multiple viewpoints and ensuring accessibility for all visitors.
- Headphones are strategically positioned on the mesh.



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