

# The original proposal

I was raised in the Comox Valley and spent my formative years delighting in the wonders of the estuary, riverscapes, and alpine meadows that compose the landscapes of home. Everything I'm passionate about as a professional and artist is informed by this place I grew up in. It's been 20 years since I officially left the valley and, at the time that I write this, one year since my mom passed away in this community she adored.

The project I hope to pursue would be an exploration of the themes of home, landscape and the threads that tie us to time, place and each other. I'm eager to take advantage of the space provided to explore larger textiles, using fabric sourced from my mother's wardrobe to represent "the ground" (the technical term for the surface of embroidery works) from which this work will bloom. I would imbue the fabrics with further meaning by utilizing natural dye respectfully sourced from the landscapes of the valley. I have no doubt that working within the context of The McLoughlin Gardens will be incredibly inspirational. I recognize that gardening, like craft, is a conversation between ourselves and the material world. Each act requires deep attentiveness, a lot of tender touch, and the ever-delicate balance of mastery and surrender.

The final work will be a softscape, a garden grown from the fabric of my mother's life, perhaps resembling a cloak, a blanket, or some other textile that evokes both domestic utility and care.