

# PENLAND GALLERY

ERIKA DIAMOND

Asheville, NC

**TEXTILES** | Mixed media, sculpture, and performance

**Penland Affiliation** | Penland Instructor 2020, 2022

**Artist Information** | Studio artist, assistant director of galleries at Chautauqua Institution (NY); teaching: Virginia Commonwealth University, Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design (CO); residencies: McColl Center for Visual Art (NC), STARworks (NC), ABK Weaving Center (WI), Platte Forum (CO); exhibitions: Form & Concept Gallery (NM), Dorsky Gallery (NYC), Kent State University Museum (OH), Fiberart International 2019 (PA); commissions: costumes for Charlotte Ballet (NC); collections: San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles (CA)

**Artist Statement** | *My work addresses the vital and fleeting qualities of human contact. It investigates the possibility of immortality, the commemoration of touch, and the thresholds between people. It reveals the vulnerability and self-preservation negotiated during human interaction. Referencing skin, defense mechanisms, and safety procedures, my work questions the fragility and resilience of both the human body and our connections to each other.*

**Bio** | German-born and the daughter of two ballet dancers, Erika Diamond is a textile-focused visual artist, curator, and educator. She received a BFA in Sculpture from the Rhode Island School of Design and an MFA in Fiber from Virginia Commonwealth University. She has exhibited nationally and internationally and her costumes have been commissioned by Charlotte Ballet. Residencies include McColl Center for Visual Art (NC); STARworks Center for Creative Enterprise (NC); Black Iris Gallery (VA); ABK Weaving Center (WI); Platte Forum (CO); and STEAM studio at UNC Asheville (NC). She received a Regional Artist Project Grant in 2015 from the Arts & Science Council of NC and an Adjunct Faculty Grant from VCU Arts to create new work using bulletproof Kevlar fabric. Diamond has taught at Virginia Commonwealth University (VA) in the Craft/Material Studies Department and at Rocky Mountain College of Art & Design (CO). She spends her summers as Assistant Director of Galleries at Chautauqua Institution (NY).

Penland School of Craft | Penland Gallery & Visitors Center  
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