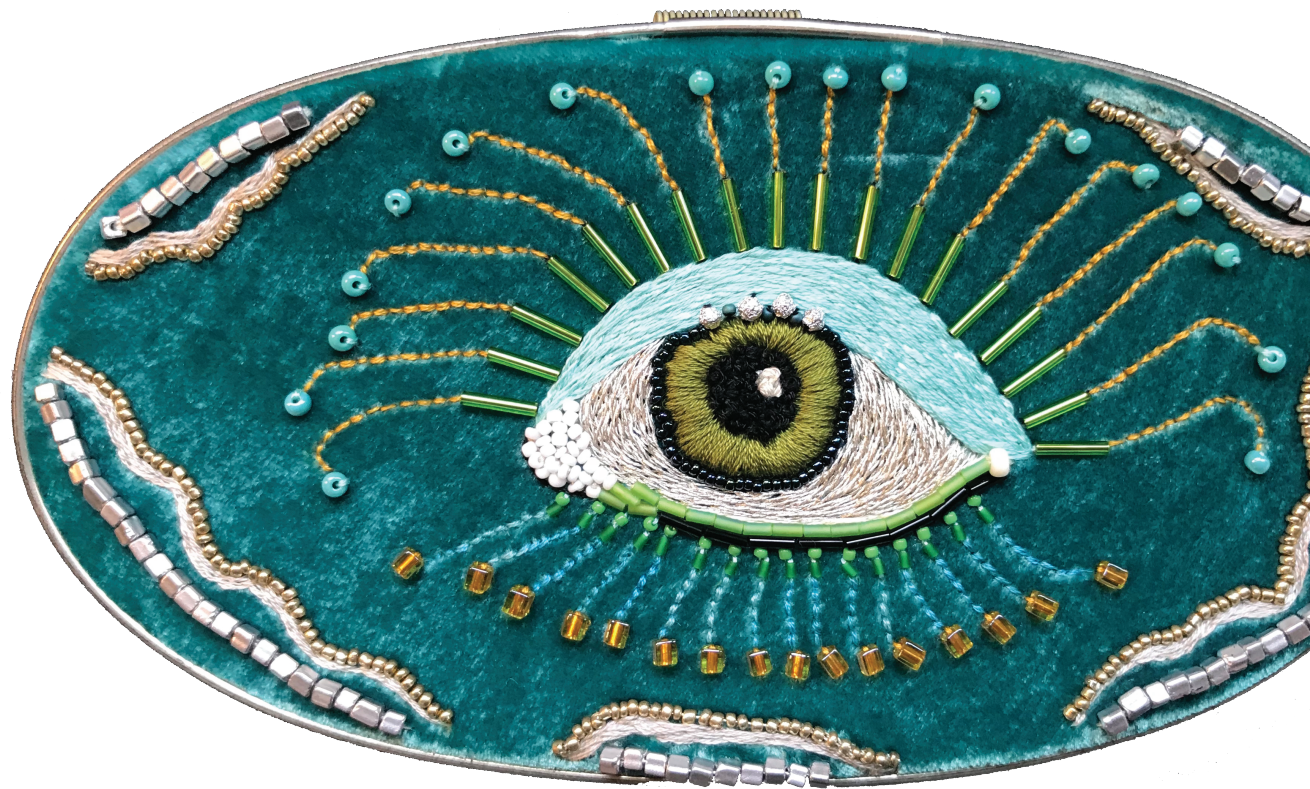




IMAGE: CATE BARRY PHOTOGRAPHY

*Michelle Beaulieu-Morgan* was born and raised in rural Maine and lives in New Haven, CT, where she finished her Ph.D. in American Studies at Yale in 2017. She is the Digital Accessibility Specialist at Yale, where she works with faculty and staff to develop and create more accessible course materials for students with disabilities. When she isn't embroidering, she is working on two series of essays: one on the intersection of queerness, working-class identity, childhood, and music, and the other on the long history of lesbians and sex workers in her French-Canadian family. Her work has been featured in several essays and exhibitions, both on- and off-line. Most recently, she was commissioned by Grammy award-winning blues musician Keb' Mo' to create the artwork for his album *Oklahoma* and its affiliated tour merchandise. You can follow her work under her Instagram handle, @mutuallyassureddeconstruction.



# Material Obsessions

*The Embroidery of Michelle Beaulieu-Morgan*

Embroidery, for me, is hypervigilant and obsessive. I push the boundaries of my “too muchness” in my pieces to provide a creative outlet for otherwise inwardly damaging impulses. The pieces in this exhibit explore different sides of that compulsion to act and think repetitively; if the clichéd definition of insanity is to do the same thing over and over again expecting different results, my embroidery allows me to push through my depression, anxiety, and obsessive tendencies by doing the same thing over and over again — stitching — with vastly different results. Each piece is a contemplation on family history and the interior landscapes of queer desire and existence, on substance abuse and the production and performance of knowledge in its many forms, and on the genealogies I’ve forged for myself as a person deeply moved by language and music.

—Michelle Beaulieu-Morgan



GALLERY AT THE WHITNEY

Tuesday, September 10 through Wednesday, December 11, 2019







# Works on Exhibit

## HALLWAY

1. *Self-Portrait*, embroidery and linocut on cotton, 2007/2018, 12" C
2. *Spade/Wisdom*, embroidery on linen, 2019, 8.5" x 12"
3. *Futile Pursuits*, embroidery on synthetic blend, 2015, 7.5" C
4. *Fragments from a Honeymoon*, embroidery on cotton, 2017, 6.5" C
5. *What It Was Like, What Happened, What It Is Like Now II*, embroidery on cotton, 2018, 7" C
6. *Keb' Mo', Oklahoma*, commissioned album art, 2019
7. *Queer History*, index cards, upholstery thread, and ink, 2012/2019, 48" x 38" (when flat)
8. *Here I Am*, embroidery and crochet on polyester, 2016, 10" x 10"
9. *You're Only As Sick As Your Secrets*, embroidery and beadwork on cotton, 2018, 20" x 16"
10. *I Was Drunk My Son's Entire Childhood*, embroidery, crochet, and beadwork on cotton, 2019, 16" x 16"

## ROOM 108

11. *Blood Lines*, embroidery on linen, 2019, 7" C
12. *Migration I*, punchneedle, embroidery, and beadwork on linen, 2018, 9.5" x 5"
13. *Migration II*, punchneedle, embroidery, and beadwork on linen, 2018, 10.5" C
14. *Thomas*, embroidery on linen, 2018, 7.5" C
15. *Winston*, embroidery on linen, 2018, 10" C
16. *Nicholas*, embroidery on linen, 2019, 5.5" C
17. *Leo*, embroidery on cotton, 2018, 10" C
18. *Henry*, embroidery on linen, 2018, 8.5" C
19. *Not Abel*, embroidery and beadwork on linen, 2019, 7.5" C
20. *Ratski*, embroidery and beadwork on cotton, 2019, 7.5" C

21. *Living on a Cloud above an Island in My Mind*, embroidery and beadwork on felt, 2018, 7" C
22. *My Guardian Angel*, embroidery and beadwork on cotton, 2018, 7.5" C
23. *Glory of God/Wrath of God*, embroidery and beadwork on cotton, 2018, 8" C

24. *Hammered by Your Tongue*, embroidery on vinyl, 2016, 5.5" C
25. *Resist*, embroidery on cotton, 2017, 6" C
26. *I Am Not a Mess/I Am a Wilderness*, embroidery and beadwork on cotton, 2018, 6" x 8"

27. *Dictionary of Obscure Sorrows: Catoptric Tristesse*, embroidery and beadwork on synthetic blend, 2018, 4.5" x 3.5"

n. the sadness that you'll never really know what other people think of you, whether good, bad or if at all — that although we reflect on each other with the sharpness of a mirror, the true picture of how we're coming off somehow reaches us softened and distorted, as if each mirror was preoccupied with twisting around, desperately trying to look itself in the eye.

28. *Dictionary of Obscure Sorrows: Opia*, embroidery and beadwork on velour, 2018, 9" x 5"

n. the ambiguous intensity of looking someone in the eye, which can feel simultaneously invasive and vulnerable — their pupils glittering, bottomless and opaque — as if you were peering through a hole in the door of a house, able to tell that there's someone standing there, but unable to tell if you're looking in or looking out.

29. *Dictionary of Obscure Sorrows: Occhiolism*, embroidery on velvet, 2016, 7" C

n. the awareness of the smallness of your perspective, by which you couldn't possibly draw any meaningful conclusions at all, about the world or the past or the complexities of culture, because although your life is an epic and unrepeatable anecdote, it still only has a sample size of one, and may end up being the control for a much wilder experiment happening in the next room.

30. *Dictionary of Obscure Sorrows: Lachesism*, embroidery and beadwork on velvet, 2018, 4.5" C

n. the desire to be struck by disaster — to survive a plane crash, to lose everything in a fire, to plunge over a waterfall — which would put a kink in the smooth arc of your life, and forge it into something hardened and flexible and sharp, not just a stiff prefabricated beam that barely covers the gap between one end of your life and the other.

31. *Jardins de Lumière*, embroidery on synthetic blend, 2018, 9.5" x 5.5"
32. *There Ain't No End to the Desert I'll Cross*, embroidery and beadwork on corduroy, 2019, 12.5" x 6"
33. *Mama Here Comes Midnight with the Dead Moon in Its Jaw*, embroidery and beadwork on synthetic blend, 2019, 12.5" x 6"

34. *Queer Landscape #28*, embroidery and beadwork on cotton, 2018, 9" C
35. *Queer Landscape #27*, embroidery and beadwork on cotton, 2018, 10" C
36. *Queer Landscape #20*, embroidery and beadwork on velour, 2018, 8.5" C
37. *Queer Landscape #21*, embroidery and beadwork on cotton, 2018, 7" C
38. *Queer Landscape #19*, embroidery and beadwork on velour, 2018, 9.5" x 5.5"
39. *Queer Landscape #26*, embroidery and beadwork on cotton, 2018, 6" C
40. *Queer Landscape #6*, embroidery on canvas, 2017, 8" x 10"

41. *Roseanna*, embroidery on cotton, 2016, 5.5" C

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Prices available from the artist upon request at [michelle.morgan@yale.edu](mailto:michelle.morgan@yale.edu)