



Rachel Freeman, *Title*, 2015, fibres and sound installation.

Rachel Freeman is a Studio Arts student in the first year of her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at Concordia University. She was initially a painter but has begun experimenting with soft sculpture and fibre arts. In her practice, Freeman translates personal experiences into more universal themes.

Inspired by Albert Neuhuys's (1844–1914) *The Happy Mother* (1874), *Title* (2015) features an embroidered and crocheted image of a featureless, pregnant woman. Suspended in front of this tapestry is a soft sculpture of a coiled fetus with a phone cord from which recordings of the artist's mother's voice resonate. The artist uses these symbols to juxtapose the intimacy of pregnancy with the realities of a long-distance relationship between mother and child. Central to these themes are the empty womb and the sickly green colour scheme, symbolizing the mother's sacrifice and feelings of loss in such a relationship. The fetus, with its adult-like proportions, functions as a self-portrait of the artist. Ultimately, this work envisions the transition between childhood and adulthood as a confusing and alienating space to navigate.

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