

# Jane Medio

## STATEMENT

I was feeling weighed down by the expectations of everyday life. Each day, there are small inconveniences, familial pressures, responsibilities, and stressors that alone may be no more than a single drop of frustration but collected, the storm can overwhelm most adults. I found myself looking for a childlike sense of comfort and wanting to create for myself a “port in the storm”. When I saw the call to artists for “More Than Touch, A Connection” I thought of this work that I wanted to create and how sharing this piece could offer others a sense of welcome, calm, and relief as well. The completed piece literally reaches out, offering connection and a sense of peace to anyone in the same boat as me.

I have been interested in the tactile experience of art for years, which has driven me to explore felting, wet felting, lampwork with glass, chalk pastel on a sanded surface, among many other tactile mediums, often mixing diverse techniques within the same artwork. I have also been looking

forward to participating in an interactive art exhibit since learning of installation artwork in college.

The concept of connection is also one I have often explored in my own work, teaching experience, and life. On the whole, children and adults are becoming more and more disconnected from one another and the world around them and replacing the intimacy of live, in-person engagement with a screen. American society is very low touch and high personal space, with friendly physical connection being reserved primarily for family members. With physical connection not being prioritized, we are further separated by those around us. My piece extends the offer of a soft, physical reprieve and an invitation to be present.