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“Threads”

The four artists in this winning exhibition at Foxy Production enjoy an easy rapport: each repurposes a craft or textile tradition to envision an alternate, queer lineage of domesticity and décor. The multicolored shapes of Ulrike Müller’s handsome wool rug float in a burgundy field, the composition’s scattered pink triangles evoking a history of political reclamation. Steve Reinke’s needlepoint “doodles” (the artist is best known as a filmmaker) are displayed in acrylic frames that reveal their messy versos, transforming a deliberate, prim pastime into a form of spontaneous expression. Johnathan Payne’s intricate, gridded constructions, made from acrylic and thread on shredded paper, recall stained glass and spiderwebs, and have the humble charm of summer-camp string-art projects. One of Tuesday Smillie’s lush hanging works, which loosely resemble both quilts and pennants, may be the show’s keystone: trimmed with a long curtain of gold beads, it proposes a new adage with a line of cutout text: “your wound is a blessing.” — *J. F. (foxyproduction.com)*