



OEUVRE

JESSICA PAYNE

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ARTIST INFORMATION

My name is **Jessica Payne**. I am a 28 year old mother, artist, and student. I have always been creative, but I didn't see myself as an artist until recently. I eventually found myself using art as an outlet to process my feelings. My art grounds me and gives me focus when things are difficult.

My path through motherhood and life has not been easy. Motherhood is supposed to be filled with joy, hope, and awe. My journey has included all of those things, but they have often been overshadowed by immense pain and fear.

My inspiration for all of my art comes from navigating motherhood while experiencing things such as cancer, complex pregnancies, and infant loss. Many of these things are not widely spoken about, and I'd like to change that. I want people who have experienced similar things to know that it's okay to talk about it. I want my pain to mean something. I want my daughters' lives to mean something, whether or not they are alive. I will not allow things to go unsaid just because they are taboo.

RADIOACTIVE

Radioactive symbolizes navigating motherhood and thyroid cancer. During my battle against thyroid cancer, I received Radioactive Iodine. During the year after this treatment, it is dangerous to become pregnant. The wilting flowers represent my feelings when I was unable to have a baby at this time despite wanting one so badly. Radioactive features a wilting **chrysanthemum**, **daisy**, and **rose**.





GROWTH

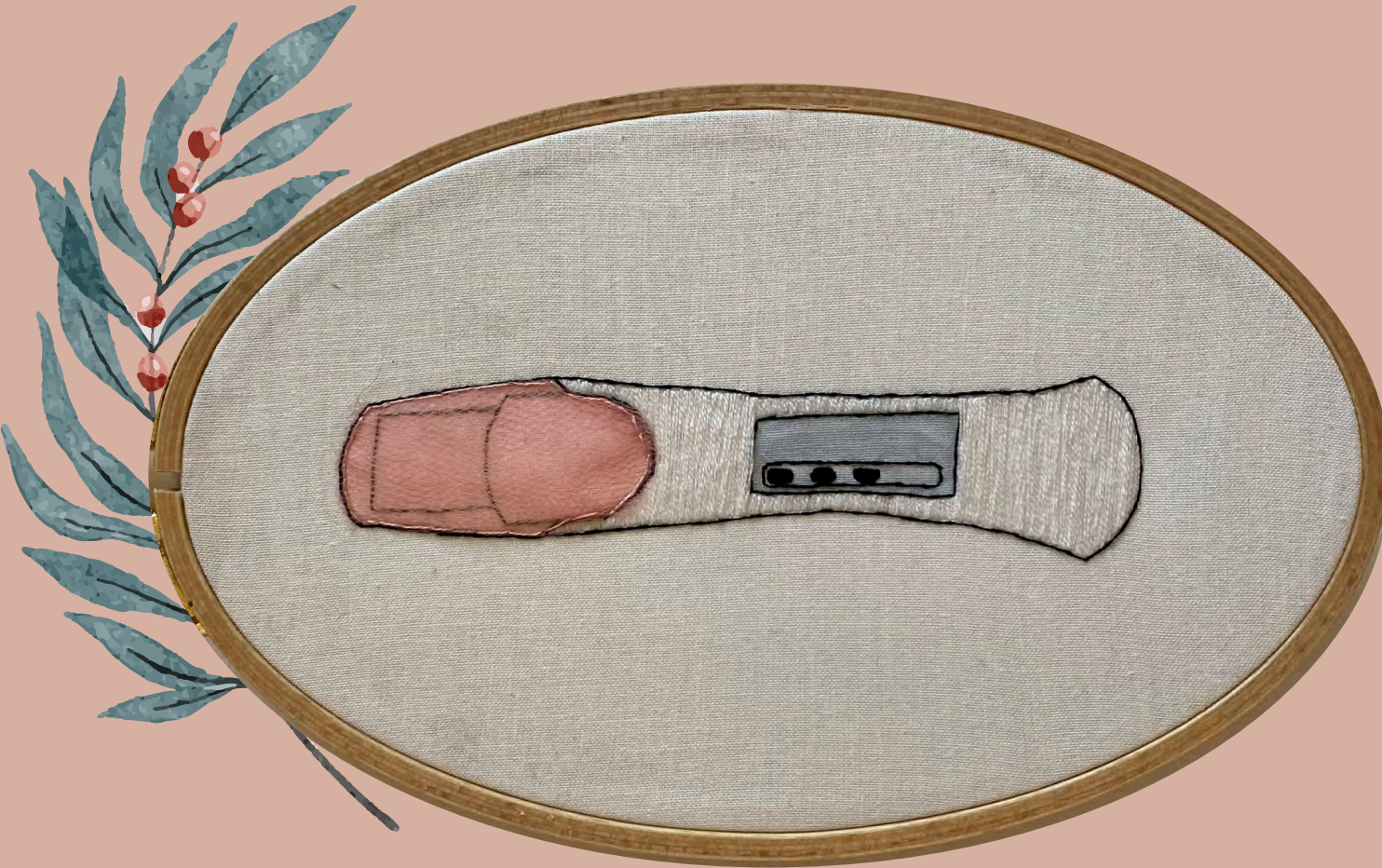
Growth is the sister to Radioactive. It represents my feelings when I found out I was pregnant with my second daughter, Clementine. I felt extreme joy and happiness that my body was able to create life again. This is my favorite piece out of all that I've made. Growth uses **California poppies**, **cornflowers**, **daisies**, **echinacea**, **lavender**, **poppies**, **Queen Anne's lace**, and **sunflowers**.

THE BLEED

The Bleed represents what I felt every month before conceiving. Every period was a painful reminder that I wasn't pregnant. My uterus was empty. I longed for a baby and every time I saw blood, I felt extremely disheartened.



WAITING



Waiting represents the minutes between taking a pregnancy test and getting the answer. In those moments, there is fear and hopefulness. Fear for getting another negative test, hopefulness for finally getting a positive.

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Often times mothers who have had c-sections are made to feel lesser than those who have had “natural” births. I wanted to create something beautiful to represent those of us who have had c-sections. Our **Scars** are beautiful.



Milk represents my relationship with breastfeeding. Breastfeeding my daughters has always been important to me. With each baby, breastfeeding had a rocky start. Two of my breastfeeding relationships had traumatic endings. The first ended earlier than I would have liked due to cancer treatment, and the second ended when my daughter died. Even with these traumatic endings, I am still happy I've been able to nourish all three of my babies. After the loss of my second daughter, I donated over 400 ounces of milk to a milk bank for babies in need. I hope that my third breastfeeding relationship continues on for a long time.



IMMORTALITY

Poem By Clare Harner

Do not stand at my grave and weep,

I am not there, I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow;

I am the diamond glints on the snow.

I am the sunlight on ripened grain;

I am the gentle autumn's rain.

When you awaken in the morning's hush,

I am the swift uplifting rush

Of quiet birds in circled flight.

I am the soft star that shines at night.

Do not stand at my grave and cry.

I am not there; I did not die.



 IMMORTALITY

This set of embroideries was inspired by the poem **Immortality**; it was read during my daughter's burial. In the days following, the words of the poem were rolling around in my head. I wanted to create a special piece just for my darling Clementine. There are a few different versions of the poem, but this is the one that was read for her.

CO-SLEEPING

For most of my oldest daughter's life we have done some form of **Co-sleeping**. I always said I would never do it...before I became a parent. Having a newborn who wanted to nurse all the time made me change my mind pretty quickly. She has continued to sleep with us for part of the night, even now. Currently, I am co-sleeping with my third daughter as well. Some of my nights are spent with one of my children on each side of me. Even though it can be exhausting, I still love it. Co-sleeping lets me experience a special bond with my kids.





DANCER

I created **Dancer** for my eldest daughter Winter's third birthday. The colors and details were chosen meticulously to match her features. I used three dimensional effects for the dancer's hair and tutu.



UNEXPECTED

This piece is titled **Unexpected** because of all the ways pregnancy after loss is unexpected. The emotions experienced in pregnancy are completely different before and after a loss so terrible. Before loss there is fear, but it usually isn't so immense. After losing a child, pregnancy is mainly fear with little room for hopefulness or excitement. Unexpected uses **blue bugloss**, **craspedia**, **daisies**, **larkspur**, and **poppies**.



BOSOM

Bosom was created as part of the Take Up Space Initiative. My take on TUS was to create beauty out of parts of my body that are not necessarily my favorite. Like many of my pieces, Bosom uses a variety of flowers that I find beautiful such as **cosmos**, **daisies**, **larkspur**, **lavender**, and **tansy**.



VIVA LA VULVA



Viva La Vulva uses **cosmos**, **daisies**, **larkspurs**, **peonies**, **Queen Anne's lace**, and **roses**.

BUM



Bum uses **busy lizzies**, **chrysanthemums**, **dahlias**, and **primroses**.



SORROW

Sorrow represents all of the heartache I've experienced. Although painful, my sadness and sorrow are a part of me. These feelings let me know that I'm here and that my daughter existed. I will never be the way I was, and it's okay to talk about it. Trying to hold all of the sorrow inside is impossible. Sorrow uses artificial **daisies** to create a 3D effect, a bead for highlight, paint, and several different embroidery stitches.

IT'S MY PARTY & I'LL
CRY IF I WANT TO

Birthdays and holidays used to be purely joyous occasions. After experiencing such a profound loss, they've become bittersweet, always intertwined with grief. There's now an unmistakable missing piece. I'll forever wonder what it would have been like to open Christmas gifts with all three of my girls or plan a birthday party for Clementine—a celebration she'll never get to share with her family. This collection is born from those imagined moments, creating a space where we can celebrate together, even if only in spirit. **Pandora's Box, Have Your Cake & Eat It Too**, and **Let Them Eat Cake** use three-dimensional **roses** for enhancement.



PANDORA'S BOX



HAVE YOUR CAKE
& EAT IT TOO



LET THEM
EAT CAKE

FLOWER INSPIRATIONS



BLUE BUGLOSS

Anchusa azurea is a species of flowering plant in the family Boraginaceae, known by the common names garden anchusa and Italian bugloss (or just “bugloss”). are edible and attract bees.



CALIFORNIA POPPIES

Eschscholzia californica, the California poppy, golden poppy, California sunlight or cup of gold, is a species of flowering plant in the family Papaveraceae, native to the United States and Mexico.



BUSY LIZZIES

Impatiens walleriana also known as busy Lizzie, balsam, sultana, or simply impatiens, is a species of the genus *Impatiens*, native to eastern Africa from Kenya to Mozambique.



CHRYSANTHEMUM

Chrysanthemums, sometimes called mums or chrysanth, are flowering plants of the genus *Chrysanthemum* in the family Asteraceae.



CORNFLOWERS

The cornflower is an annual flowering plant in the family Asteraceae which is native to Europe. In the past, it was often viewed as a weed in cornfields, which resulted in its name.

FLOWER INSPIRATIONS



COSMOS

Cosmos is a genus, with the same common name of cosmos, consisting of flowering plants in the sunflower family.



DAHLIA

Dahlia is a genus of bushy, tuberous, herbaceous perennial plants that are native to Mexico and Central America. Its relatives include the sunflower, the daisy, the chrysanthemum, and the zinnia.



ECHINACEA

Echinacea is a genus of herbaceous flowering plants in the daisy family. Echinacea purpurea is often used in traditional medicine.



CRASPEDIAS

Craspedia is a genus of flowering plants in the family Asteraceae commonly known as billy buttons and woollyheads. They are native to Australia and New Zealand.



DAISY

The daisy is a European species of the family Asteraceae. It is sometimes qualified as common daisy, lawn daisy or English daisy.

FLOWER INSPIRATIONS



LARKSPUR

Delphinium, which is commonly known as Larkspur, is a genus of annual and perennial flowering plants that are native throughout the Northern Hemisphere and on the high mountains of tropical Africa.



PEONY

The peony is a flowering plant in the genus *Paeonia*. They are native to Asia, Europe, and North America. Scientists differ on the number of species, ranging from 25 to 40 species.



LAVENDER

Lavandula (common name lavender) is a genus of 47 known species of flowering plants in the mint family, *Lamiaceae*.



POPPIES

A poppy is a flowering plant in the subfamily *Papaveroideae* of the family *Papaveraceae*. Poppies are herbaceous plants, often grown for their colorful flowers.



PRIMROSE

The *Primulaceae*, the primrose family, are a family of herbaceous and woody flowering plants including some favorite garden plants and wildflowers.



QUEEN ANNE'S LACE

Daucus carota, whose common names include wild carrot, bird's nest, and Queen Anne's lace, is a flowering plant in the family Apiaceae.



ROSE

A rose is either a woody perennial flowering plant in the family Rosaceae, or the flower it bears. There are over three hundred species of rose.



SUNFLOWER

The common sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) is commonly grown as a crop for its edible oily seeds and as ornamental plants.



TANSY

Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*) is a perennial, herbaceous flowering plant. It can also be referred to as common tansy, bitter buttons, cow bitter, or golden buttons.



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