

# ELIZABETH SALONEN

[www.mottoform.com](http://www.mottoform.com)

M: 226-347-8007

IG: @mottoform

[salonen@mottoform.com](mailto:salonen@mottoform.com)

## ARTIST STATEMENT

Making is in my blood. Rooted in a Scandinavian design heritage, and in a family of makers and designers, it's part of who I am. My work is a diverse range of 2- and 3-dimensional art and design explorations. Current concepts I'm focusing on include: lightness, reduction, merging artisan and industrial, equilibrium and re-materialization. My process incorporates a strong emphasis on craftsmanship and detail, as well as discovery through an inquiry based approach to materials.

In both art and design, I seek to capture the essence of different materials or forms in a process of refinement. I'm interested in how the "handwriting" of the form changes in each new material to express my artistic intent. This is continually evolving. I enjoy the tactile experience of working with different media like plastic, ceramic, textiles, wood, plaster, thread. I often approach each with a curious, unlearned mindset. Experimentation makes the process exciting, and I frequently work from the perspective of a designer – with prototypes, 3D models, sketches, and mockups. This process merges artisan and industrial, hand-made and digital.

My interest in lightness and space stems from living in a Nordic culture, where the winters are long and dark, and the summers full of light. I began to appreciate the impact light has within spaces, and how it makes us feel. This has evolved into lightness in other ways, in the reduction of visual noise and in the pursuit of equilibrium in my work. As well, the pure joy of making is lightness, where the act of creation is inherently positive. With "Thread" series, I wanted the work to embody this lightness, both in the meditation of creating the work, and in the resonance the artwork has with the viewer.

Another concept in my work is the health / rejuvenation of the planet, and the re-materialization of waste or discarded products into new. For example, my "Discarded" collection are bas-relief wall sculptures that question the narrative of disposable packaging as end-of-life waste. These sculptural interventions on found objects are a call for attention, aiming to inspire dialogue around the global issue of single use packaging. They are also a visualization of waste as beauty.

My practice seeks to find equilibrium between concept, form, function and reduction. To continue exploring the narrative of materials, craft, and techniques for making collectible art and design. To design objects with authenticity that have a story and connection to the past and future. To consider what we are taking from and giving back to the earth. To pursue the creation of work that embodies a form of lightness. And to balance the worlds of artisan and industrial, traditional and modern.