Lifeline:

a heartbeat *a connection*

a trail *a salvation*

a tracing *a long story*

(a continual line in thread)

This show is a record of the past eight years of my life through a series of eight monumental quilts and other related artworks, including paintings, reliquary boxes, and smaller textile pieces.

I process time through different mediums. Paintings allow me to engage with immediacy, and I can rush at a large surface with energy and make big changes quickly to process a life event or aspect of my physiological surroundings. Quilts are worked over a much longer span of time. Each quilt takes about one year. They become containers of the seasons of my life, spiritual diaries with hundreds and thousands of entries.

When I am working at the long arm machine, I only get to see a small section of the quilt at once. I must focus fully on the part of the fabric that is exposed and trust that the big picture will become what it needs to be. I focus on the small-scale and immediate, funneling my thoughts and movements into a flowing line of thread, a handwritten prayer made by gesture, breath, thought, and intention. The rhythm and flow of this chain of stitches is directly connected to my body and emotions, like an externalized heartbeat. Intuition becomes thought becomes movement becomes stitch, and moment by moment, day by day, the stitches form long undulating lines of my spiritual migrations. That trail of my energy is the thing that I will leave behind: my lifeforce, my lifeline–preserved in the quilt forever.

Across media, I create vast networks of interconnected components: cities from buildings, forests from trees, and galaxies from stars. I fixate on the tiny pieces during creation and step back to see them all come together near completion, marveling at the power of each piece as essential to something so much greater than itself. As I scale between intimacy and distance and from individual to collective, I meditate on the scope of time. I think about how moments and days collectively network to make my life story– and the human story– and the story of life on earth– and the story of life itself.

Jenny Welden
American, Born 1994
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