

Karina Thompson

I see myself essentially a storyteller; sometimes the story is big, like what has caused a terminal illness and sometimes the story is small, like the tale of a single heartbeat; sometimes the story is just breaking, like how we can now see and adapt our chromosomes and sometimes the story is old, like how an 18th century industrialist looked at the moon. I see myself as a storyteller with threads and fabric as my words.

Digital technology has changed forever the way we discover, understand and create. I am intrigued in the way we process and communicate data; the paradox of how essentially important that data may be, yet how intelligible it is to the uninitiated. This is particularly true of medical data where information can literally be a life or death matter. And just as digital technology is changing the diagnosis and treatment of illnesses, digital technology is changing the way I can work with textiles.

I use computer programmed sewing machines and digital print onto fabric to make my work. I can programme stitches with pinpoint accuracy, fill areas with decorative satin stitch and build images with precision: I can make in a way that I could not have imagined when I graduated 25 years ago. Technology is allowing me to create and adapt imagery in a way that I never expected. It feels like the possibilities are endless.