



## ***Se souvenir du futur* (Remembering the Future)**

One of the pieces I completed during my last June residency (with Michael David at the Judy Pfaff Studios in Tivoli, NY, USA) is *Se souvenir du futur* (Remembering the Future) an assemblage sculpture made from repurposed jeans, metal rods, metal clips and wire, and spray paint.

Dimensions are: 116" long, 73" wide, and 64" high.

Thank you to Daniel Gadd for creating the metal ellipse that became a key element in the piece!

“Remembering the future” is an expression attributed to Soren Kierkegaard, the Danish philosopher. This quote resonates in us deeply because it reflects a universal human experience.

We all engage in a form of “future memory” through our hopes, dreams, and anxieties. When we envision a bright future filled with possibilities, or fear a bleak one fraught with hardship, we are essentially constructing mental images of what may come.

Similarly, regrets are a form of “future memory” focused on the past. They remind us of paths not taken, decisions we made (or did not make), and opportunities we missed. In essence, we are lamenting a different future, one that could have been if things had unfolded differently.

This concept of “remembering the future” highlights the power of our minds to navigate not just the past and present, but also the realm of possibilities. It serves as a reminder of the importance of cherishing present moments and pursuing the futures we desire while acknowledging the bittersweet nature of unrealized dreams.

In *Se souvenir du futur*, the primary element is the jeans’ seams—the unsung hero of denim garments. These recovered fragments represent the remnants of past lives. They were once part of clothing worn by individuals who imbued the fabric with their presence, perhaps leaving behind traces of their body and even their dreams.

For me, using only the seams holds profound significance. They act as a powerful metaphor for the “future memories” we all carry. Just as these seams hint at the vanished fabric, our hopes and regrets are whispers of paths not taken, dreams unrealized.

My creative process with these recovered seams is one of collaboration. I envision the stories of their previous wearers: their aspirations, joys, and sorrows. In a sense, these fragments “speak” to me, suggesting potential ideas and shapes. They actively participate in the creation of something new, a tangible expression of the intangible emotions we all share.

The moving ellipse on which the elements are suspended creates an ephemeral quality, mirroring the fleeting nature of our hopes, dreams, and regrets. Just as the ellipse appears for a moment and then transforms, our “future memories” do not exist in isolation. Our dreams and regrets are ever shifting, shaped through the lens of past experiences, influenced by our present, and constantly influencing our perception of the future like a kaleidoscope that reveals new patterns with every turn.

Whether we are lost in hopeful dreams, burdened by past regrets, or simply experiencing the present, we as humans are bound by a common thread. We share a universal journey of emotions, and our growth relies on the connections we forge with each other.

General studio photo: Louise Noël