For the first 68 years of Geri Hahn’s life, none but family ever saw her drawings or artwork. She is now a 74-year-old self-taught artist whose work is biomorphic, geometric and super-brightly colored. After teaching herself to work with fabric and thread, she began creating art with hand-sewn and embroidered silk and linen with elements of shiny metallic floss. The pieces exhibited in Still Living Out Loud represent three basic categories of pattern recognition: sounds, words, and emotions. Hahn’s ability to recognize patterns is enabled by her neurological hard wiring: She is a synesthete. Synesthesia is simply the human experience of when one sense is activated, another unrelated sense is activated at the same time. Hahn “sees” every single sound she hears. Sounds are experienced as patterns of color, texture and concrete elements that exist in the physical world. Patterns in speech and emotions or feelings of her physical senses also serve as creative inspiration.
Brightly colored shapes have inspired Hahn since she began drawing in abstract forms after her first encounter as a 10-year-old with the art of Alexander Calder. Due to her ability to draw on her emotions of joy and sorrow, anger and frustration, intense love, and occasionally her feelings about politics or war, she merged her drawings with her passions for textiles, abstraction, and most significantly, music. Her recent art created in fabric is the result of this process of translation and transformation.

Hahn’s work has been seen at the Montclair Art Museum, Ramapo College, Seton Hall University, NJIT, and in galleries and libraries throughout Tribeca, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York state. She has also lectured on synesthesia at Lafayette College and Ramapo College, as well as given artist talks throughout the region. Hahn hopes that her work will allow the viewer to share the energy and joy she experiences with her unique sensory response to the quotidian rhythms of daily life.