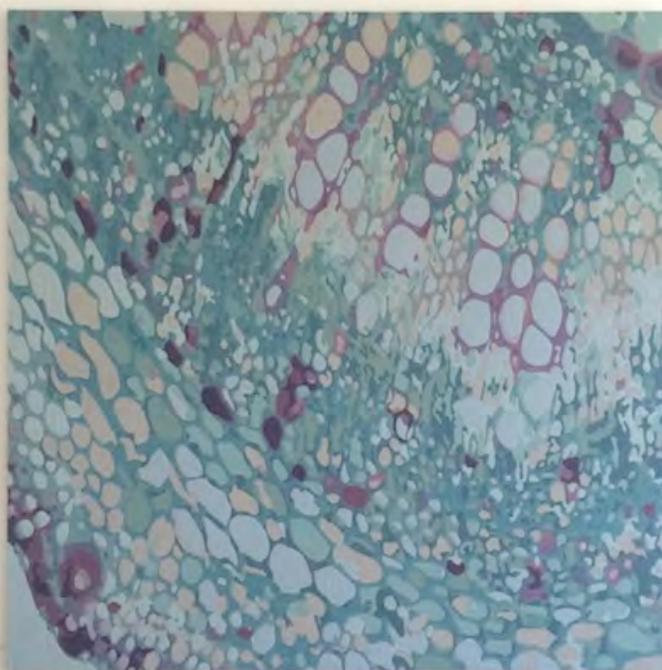




Close Up



Textile on a Frame and Wall Mounted

## Closer to Cotton

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After thinking about how cotton, design, textiles, science and technology have intersected with one another in my college experience, I decided to try and incorporate each element into my piece. I started by assessing cotton, the role it's played in my life, its prevalence at our school, North Carolina's economy, and in the industry as a whole. In contemplation, I realized I was taking a microscopic look, analyzing, and obsessing over it. Which in turn, made me think of some of the more in-depth courses I've taken at NC State in which we approached fibers from a scientific, engineering, and forensic view. I remembered how fascinated I was by the characteristics, shapes, colors and environments present when we observed various fibers microscopically. That's where the idea of making a textile painting came from; I felt the beauty that I witnessed should be shared and independently merits the right to be considered art.

From there, I took a microscopic photo of a cotton stem, converted it to a digital image and brought it into the EAT software, where I edited and assigned colors, picked weaving structures and simulated the final product. Then, imported it into the StaubliJ5 where it was woven with cotton yarns. In the final steps, it was stretched and mounted to a frame. Thus, completing my experience of getting “Closer to Cotton.” It brings me joy to think of cotton in this new light and I look forward to incorporating more Cotton and Textile Art in my life. I have such an appreciation for the textiles of the past and the vital roles it played in peoples’ lives. I embrace this mentality and think that there should be a resurgence of its importance in our culture, heritage, and lives.