

# The SFMOMA SECA Art Award to Maria Guzmán Capron



By Dance  
Doyle

Maria Guzmán Capron's works at SFMOMA, part of the 2022 SECA Art Award Exhibition, are astounding. Her four pieces are colorful wall hangings and soft stand-alone sculptures, each one a quilted figurative work, shaped around the edges, and alive with abundantly bold textures and hues. Guzmán Capron uses fiery colors—reds, fuchsias, oranges, pinks, and various shades of yellow—with some cooler colors to balance things visually.

Her works are relevant to contemporary art, great examples of how craft engages with contemporary dialogues through sewing, quilting, painting, and airbrushing. The forms are collages of different fabrics, some with fringes and all with three-dimensional elements. She switches from quilting with batting to add forms, such as stuffed hands and fingers. Guzmán Capron has an absolute mastery of contouring seams and shading with air-brushing. These techniques, and the paint she uses, give her works depth and almost otherworldly three-dimensionality.

The star of the show, prosaically titled *Head and Foot*, depicts just that. It is suspended in the middle of the gallery, about an inch above the floor. The work is double-sided. One aspect is a woman looking out; her hair, which hangs all the way to the floor, is made up of air-brushed flowers. The other side, facing the back wall, is another image of a woman, sitting in a red bubble with air-brushed butterfly wings in black. To contour the woman, Guzmán Capron used pink, white, and purple fabric. One half of her is light, with pastel pink and orange flowers, while the other half is dark fabric with white dots resembling flowers. This brilliant contrast that she has created masterfully pops. On a lounging woman's lap are two stuffed and air-brushed hands, one blue and one yellowy-orange.

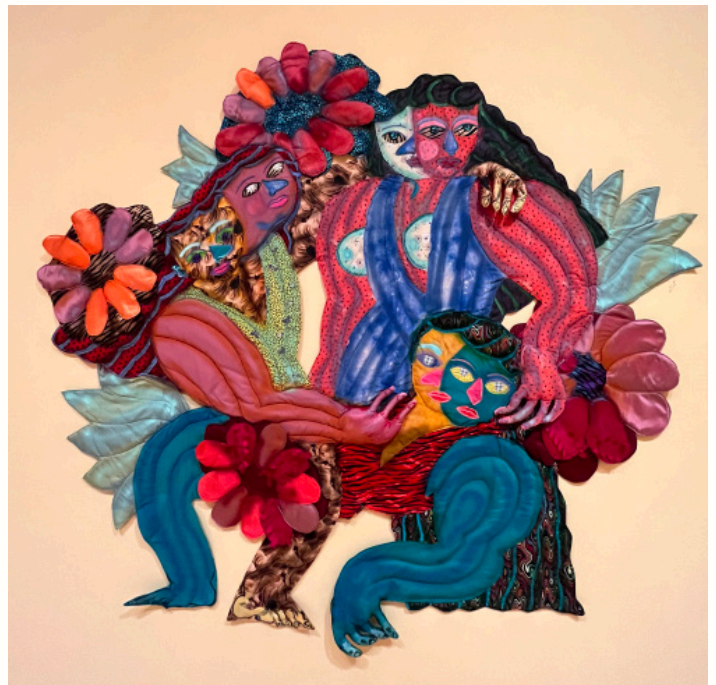
Another work, *Eros*, has six faces all looking in different directions—a group of women and children standing together. If you stand there long enough you can almost hear the laughter and the chattering coming from the figures. Here, the artist uses the same methods of quilting and contouring with different colors of airbrush paint. The women look strong and sensual, with long flowing hair, like the goddesses pictured in children's Greek mythology books from the 1970s. The way the figures all hang on each other suggests a sense of community.

[Full disclosure: I know Maria personally—she was one of my MFA advisors as a graduate student here at CCA, and I got to know her creative and vibrant personality. So, after experiencing her work, I felt as though I had left a giant garden of bright people

and flowers, dipped in all of her brilliant colors. She offers an aesthetic that remains. I see her essence in every color, texture, stitch, spray, brushstroke, and stuffed body part.]



*Photo by Dance Doyle*



*Maria Guzmán Capron, Eros, 2022*  
*Photo by Dance Doyle*





**Maria Guzmán Capron, Mucho Más, 2022**  
*Photo by Dance Doyle*



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*Photo by Dance Doyle*

Dance Doyle (CCA MFA Fine Arts '23) is an Oakland based artist who creates tapestry on floor looms.