SOFTLY QUANTIFIED – BRIEF STATEMENT
A femininely embodied encounter with numbers - ever familiar and mundane patterns of digestion in a culture of scientific management.

Cotton paper patches, embroidered by machine in mathematical formulas - drawn from 4 spheres underpinning contemporary patterns of organization - physics, biology, economics and engineering.

SOFTLY QUANTIFIED – ARTIST’S STATEMENT
Life in the contemporary and “developed’ world is increasingly organized by quantification in pursuit of a life of quality. Everywhere we go we encounter “managed’ worlds fine tuned by invisible formulas embedded in computer programs. Our actions are held within the boundaries of “accountability” where we increasingly regulate our bodies and minds in response to margins and goals set somewhere in the ‘scientifically managed’ system.

Our lives are pervaded with measurements, quantities and rationales so much so that numbers are mundane elements of our landscape. For some, it is questionable as to how rich our actual daily lives are, more often than not encountered through sedentary, office life in front of computer screens. We have shifted from manual factory workers to sedentary system workers but how much “richer” are our experiences from moment to moment? For most of us, we click remotes and swipe our cards ‘switching on” as if by magic but a magic that we barely stop to consider. Similarly, we accept statistical analyses of our food, physical, economic and global health. We jet across the world, race along freeways and shelter in sky high architectural marvels but how many of us really understand or even know these formulas that format our lives as?

In times gone by, the tenants of civilizations have been in some way “revered” through beautiful works of calligraphy, sculptural
engravings, stained glass, tapestry – the list goes on. Rarely do we see mathematical formulas depicted in this way and this speaks volumes about our kind of civilization. A civilization whose application of science and mathematics has fixed its gaze upon progress and the future. A civilization where lived experiences retreat to the mind, passing by sensory experiences of our bodies and the “now” at ever increasing speed.

Softly quantified explores other possibilities for engaging with maths. Drawing upon demising skills in sewing, generally passed down through generations of women (tenders of homeliness), hundreds of formulas have been stitched. Each stitch a tiny knot forming a letter, each letter part of package (formula) whose multiple untrimmed threads suggest a tactile and sensory myriad of connections.