

Threads: Body of Work

Art:

Everything I say is Art is Art. Everything I do is Art is Art. "We have no Art, we try to do everything well." (Balinese saying).

Mierle Laderman Ukeles,
Manifesto! Maintenance Art -
Proposal for an Exhibition "Care",
1969

**BCU Art and Design BA(Hons)
Final Major Project 2021**

Madeleine Ellis

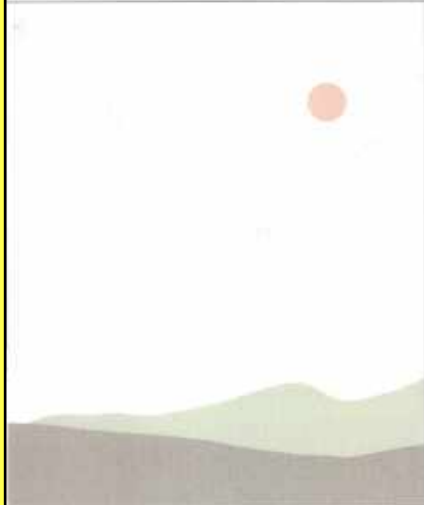
At the centre of my practice is my own self-care and self-maintenance (routine tasks that are required for my own survival/continuation).

This has developed through my own struggle to sustain myself and an artistic practice simultaneously. I am influenced by the work of Mierle Laderman Ukeles, whose Manifesto for Maintenance Art has been a key document for me. Many people share this same practice, either for themselves or others, but the mundanity and repetition of these tasks mean this is an expectation rather than a choice. I am not trying to elevate these tasks or display them in galleries, but to recognise the significance and personal cost for myself and others who practice their creation in this way.

Alongside this lies my production, which is focused on hand processes such as baking bread and knitting. These are, for various reasons, considered to be 'craft' or women's work, so the research I have undertaken has often drawn from historical and contemporary marginalised groups. The significance of learning both processes and theory from those who are not here to teach it provides a sense of community, and isolation, mirroring my self-maintenance work, where despite the quantity of those performing these tasks there is little discussion and recognition around them.

2021 01

JANUARY 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



11 MONDAY

Watered Plants
Face mask

12 TUESDAY

Down 10 ish

||||| ||||| |||||

13 WEDNESDAY

Down 12ish
Cleaned Sandagh
Jar

14 THURSDAY

15 FRIDAY

16 SATURDAY

Face Mask

17 SUNDAY

11:30
clean sheets
Watered Plants
Dyed Hair

2021 02

FEBRUARY

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28



15 MONDAY

16 TUESDAY

17 WEDNESDAY

18 THURSDAY

19 FRIDAY

20 SATURDAY

21 SUNDAY

DoB: 12 ish?
Clean sheets etc
Watered all plants
started GF starter
ordered tiny frog son
started DF Milk Bread
Bake →
Washed Hair
Showered.
Face Mask
~90% water



2021 04
APRIL

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

05 MONDAY 月曜日

06 TUESDAY

07 WEDNESDAY

08 THURSDAY

09 FRIDAY

10 SATURDAY

11 SUNDAY



2021 04

APRIL

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

26 MONDAY

31



Planted lemon seeds
printer threw wobbly
ordered plants from
friends or friends

27 TUESDAY

Rougher day.
Printed loads of
backgrounds for process
book
Showered, washed hair.
Played Quench

28 WEDNESDAY

Tutorial with Lisa
Went to garden
centre.

29 THURSDAY

Phoebe Birthday.
Plants arrived!

30 FRIDAY



01 SATURDAY

31

Showered, washed hair.
Rough Day
Did clean & tidy,
no more piles of
stuff!
Sourdough out of fridge.

02 SUNDAY

Started bread.
Transferred actvs.
Planted spider plant
and sage.
Clay Tower pot
sourdough back in
fridge (unfed)



Daily Self-Maintenance (56/101)
Double bed, double duvet, weighted blanket, HD Video, 2020, 1:06
<https://youtu.be/LK89ShrM0mY>



Care: Self and Other (20/52)
Duvet cover, two flat sheets, fitted sheet, six pillow cases,
washing line, plastic pegs, 2021



Care: Self and Other (22/52)
Duvet cover, two flat sheets, fitted sheet, four pillow cases,
washing line, plastic pegs, 2021



Sugar Water and Flowers
Jam jar lid containing water and sugar, with fallen cherry blossom
flowers, 2021



Sourdough Growth
Flour, water, customised mason-style jar, HD Video, 2020, 1:14:35
<https://youtu.be/Yn3BWsJHn7A>



Sourdough Starter Growth (Timelapse)
Flour, water, customised mason-style jar, HD Video, 2021, 5:03
<https://youtu.be/K9bgMK1KKho>



Bread Beginnings
Flour, water, customised mason-style jar, HD Video, 12:46, 2021
<https://youtu.be/6tKfMAmk9g>



Sourdough Bread (7th December Edition)
Flour, water, salt, 24 hours, 2021



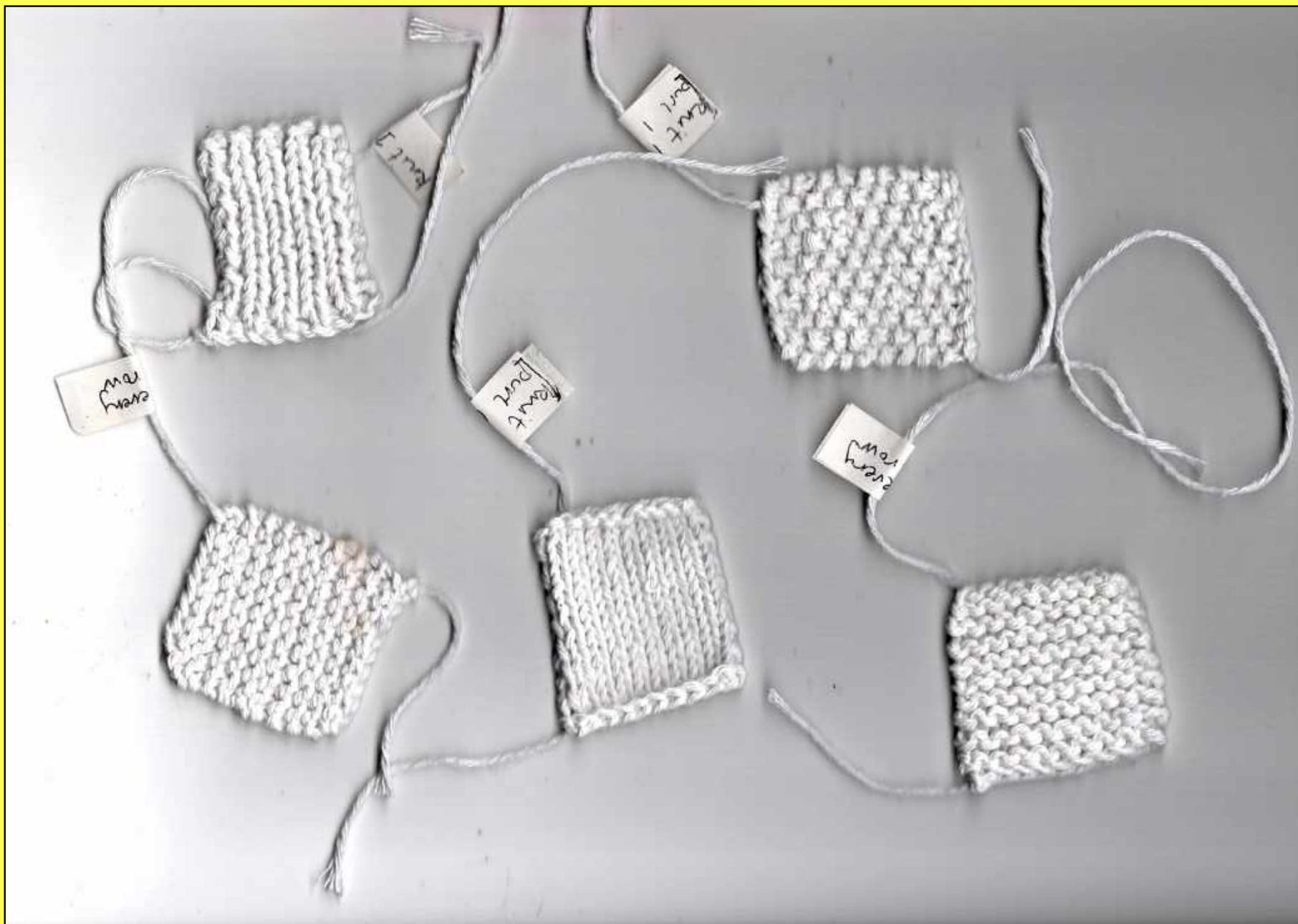
Sourdough Bread (11th December Edition)
Flour, water, salt, 24 hours, 2020



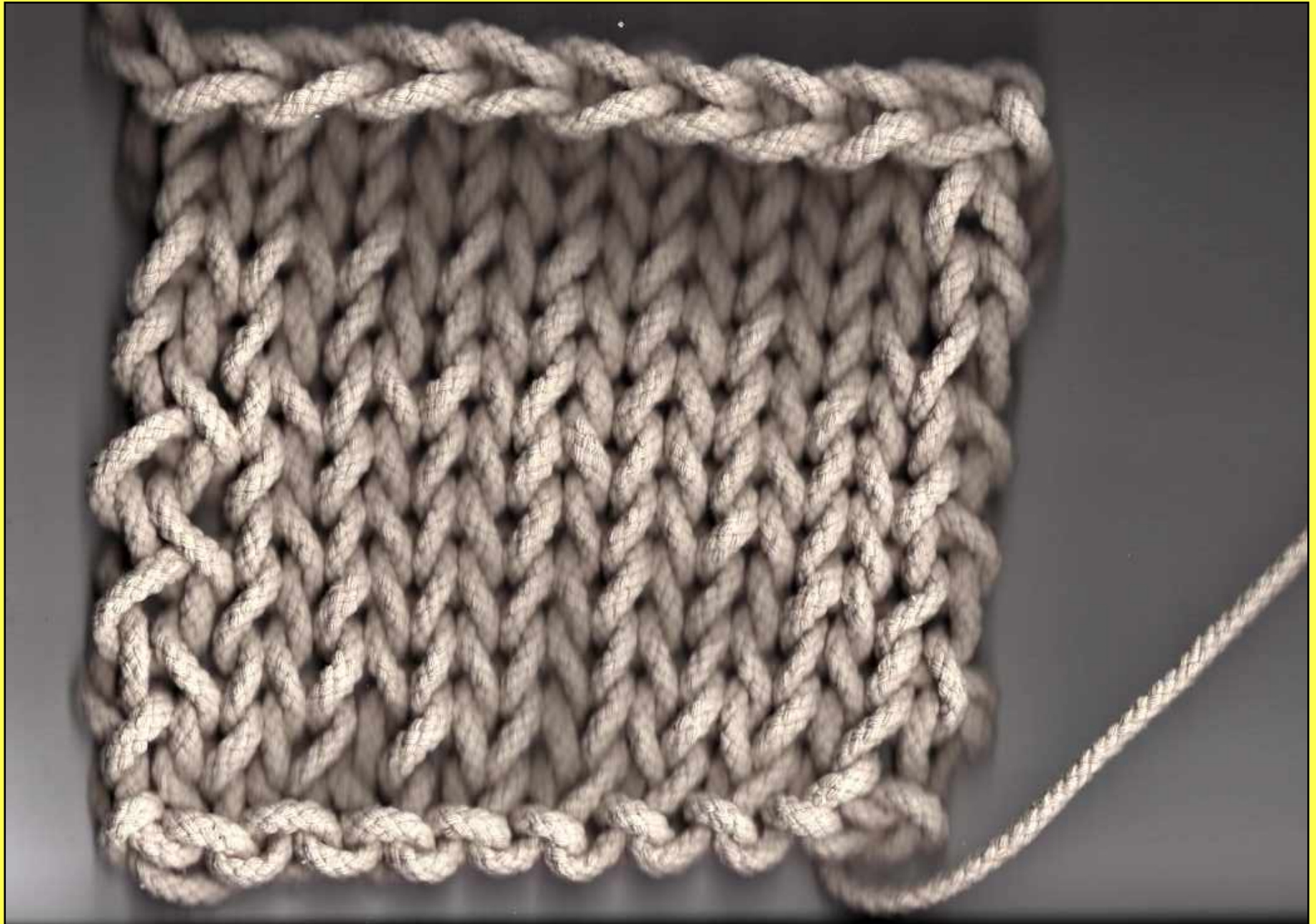
Sourdough Bread (25th April Edition)
Flour, water, salt, 24 hours, 2021



Sourdough Bread (3rd May Edition)
Flour, water, salt, 24 hours, 2021



Test swatches
String, 2020



Ribbed Rope
Rope, 2020



Binary Colour
Acrylic green, orange, and pink yarn with black and white wool rovings,
2021



Randomised Knitting in Blue
Cotton Yarn, 2021



Self in Green (1st February Edition)
Green bamboo yarn, orange and black wool rovings, string, flour bag, used
tea bags, dried plant cuttings, screws and can tabs, 2021

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I have no idea but I feel like my brain is goop and I'm wading through treacle



i want to go home, 2021

Fallow, 2020

i want to go home and
that isn't here anymore

I wish
I could fallow
for a season

lie dormant
gather strength
grow wild

i wonder
if the plants
know

that the sun will rise
again

i'm the kind of tired
that heroes feel
at the end of their journey
only I
have saved nothing
but myself

they say you
can only truly
be seen
through the eyes of another

that if you saw yourself,
the way the world does
you would not
recognise
you

i try
to look
to listen

i cannot find me
or i do

i was there
once

maybe i have moved

or perhaps
the reason
i cannot be found
is i have always been here

they say you
can only truly
be seen
through the eyes of another

that if you saw yourself
the way the world does
you would refuse
to recognise
you

