



CANDIDA
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The Queens of Somerset by Alice Kettle, 2021-2022

A series inspired by the history of Somerset House and the Queens who resided there when it was a palace, from the mid 16th Century to the beginning of the 18th Century. The Queens included Elizabeth I (reign 1558 – 1603) daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn, who establishment the English Protestant church and is sometimes referred to as the Virgin Queen. Anne of Denmark (1574-1619) wife of James I who oversaw the terracing of the gardens and introduction of the orangery. Henrietta Maria of France (1609-1669) wife of Charles I, who although modest externally, opened the most elaborate Roman Catholic chapel in a particularly grand ceremony in 1636. Catherine of Braganza (1638-1705) wife of Charles II, who commissioned a refurbishment by Christopher Wren and opened the River Terrace to the public, then painted by Canaletto twice in c1750.

“Alice Kettle has established a unique area of practice in stitch, consistently and on an unparalleled scale.” V&A Museum. Internationally renowned, pioneering artist Alice Kettle’s work is regarded as boundary breaking and contemporary in its process, yet it also evokes a deep sense of the fundamental with its themes. Her approach is immersed in the relationship we as humans have with nature, the world and each other. “We are part of the material world as physical beings” she says “... implicated in a generative cycle of relationships”.

Overleaf: *Queen Anne*, 2021, Thread on linen, 128 x 128 cm



Queen Elizabeth, 2022
Thread on Linen, 174 x 129 cm



Catherine of Braganza, 2022
Thread on Linen, 112 x 80 cm

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SCAN ME

+44 (0)1243 528401 / 07794 416569
info@candidastevens.com
www.candidastevens.com
Instagram @candida_stevens

12 Northgate
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 1BA