

For the 10th annual Back to the Future section at Artissima 2023, ChertLüdde is delighted to present Clemen Parrocchetti. Largely unseen yet reflecting a key point in the Feminist movement in Italy during the 1970s, Parrocchetti's historical position embodies an eruptive artistic presence that unravels the politics behind common objects of artisanship.

Needles, spools, bobbins, children's toys, and textiles are some of the many materials repurposed in Clemen Parrocchetti's (1923-2016, Milan) sculptures. Considered domestic items, Parrocchetti's choice of medium fiercely subverts conventions around art production and the subjugation of women.

Often piercing lips and other dismembered body parts with needles and thread, Parrocchetti draws attention to the harsh realities of physical and mental oppression experienced by the women of the latter half of the 20th century – a topic still very necessary to address over half a century later. In the 1977 tapestry *Per la vita, sempre!* (For life, always!), Parrocchetti gathers two-dimensional lips near the bottom hem of the fabric. The repetition of stitching, embroidery, and quilting with “items of female culture,” as Parrocchetti once described, refers to the artist's critique of the female domestic sphere, which she saw as a prison of sexual and familial servitude. The repetition of this style emphasizes the unceasing tasks enforced upon women in the household as well as the bedroom, which is accentuated with the motifs of lips and genitalia. On the top part of the tapestry is an incision, an open mouth cut into the fabric that alludes simultaneously to the objectification of women as well as the more hopeful potential to escape from this mold and tear away from the fabric of society towards freedom.

Topics that often unfold in the private sphere are thus made public in Parrocchetti's work, hanging like protest banners for justice and change. Bringing life, art, and political activism into her work, rediscovering Parrocchetti's work underlines the statement that revolution starts from within.