

**Marcie Miller Gross**  
**Des Emplastres et Des Compresses**

2017

Wool industrial felt

Marcie Miller Gross was intrigued with the distinct, elegant forms of the compresses, plasters and bandages illustrated in *Cours d'operations de chirurgie*, found in the Clendening History of Medicine Library at the University of Kansas Medical Center. The original shapes were informed by the specific types of incisions made by the surgeon and evoke the topography of the body. These elemental forms are familiar, abstract and poetic in their simplicity.

The density of the industrial felt suggests bone, while the cream color brings to mind the fragile pages of the original book published in 1707. The play of light and shadow across the surface of these objects reveals irregularities inherent in their making, reminiscent of the early drawings. She is interested in human fragility, sensory knowledge and connection to place.

Marcie's work has been exhibited in institutions and galleries throughout the Midwest and internationally, and is held in public and private collections. She has lived in Kansas City since receiving her Master of Fine Arts at Cranbrook Academy of Art and Bachelor of Fine Arts at the University of Kansas. Her father received his medical degree from the University of Kansas School of Medicine in 1948 and was a professor of surgery at KU until 1973.

Reference: Dionis, Pierre. *Cours d'operations de chirurgie: demonstrees au Jardin royal*. Paris, Chez Laurent D'Houry, rue saint Severin, au St Esprit, vi-s-vis la rue Zacharie: 1707. Held at the Clendening History of Medicine Library, University of Kansas Medical Center.