

Beverly Y. Smith



I am a mixed-media fiber artist. I choose to express myself through quilts because of their personal connection to my ancestors and Southern roots. Through my subject matter, I explore a new narrative of equal rights and opportunities for all genders, and specifically giving a voice to women and girls. The female figures in my quilts engage viewers in a direct gaze – an evocation of solidarity – as if to say, “I see you, so I know you see me.” By featuring women and girls in my quilts, I aspire to promote, honor, and celebrate perspectives of women across geographic, racial, and ideological lines, all the while paying homage to those who came before me.

My quilts acknowledge the strength, preciseness, and ingenuity of traditional quilts. I also expand upon these traditions by adding my own aesthetics. The strong correlations I make with African textiles and my grandmother’s quilts certainly impacted my own quilt styles. My grandmother taught me that the smallest piece of fabric can hold generations of truth. Therefore, it is

characteristic of my works to contain nostalgic materials, and re-claimed garments.

My choice of fabrics come from vintage feed sacks constructed during the 1930’s and 1940’s from the Great Depression era, repurposed clothing, and upcycled vintage quilts. My quilt surface is layered with machine and hand stitching, paint, indigo dyes, transferred images, and found objects. My signature graphite drawings are rendered on unprimed canvas using various gradations of pencils. I typically use an applique process that is sewn directly to the quilt top. This transforms my figures into ancestors that tell stories from another time.

The women depicted in my works are all family members that lived during the mid- 1700’s until present day. They are my grandparents, aunts, cousins, sisters, nieces, and my mother. Underneath each personality is a collective story, a life, a soul. My faces and figures are not about capturing an exactness of the person. It is about capturing their essence.

CV

Education

2004-2007 **Winthrop University**, M.A.Ed. Art Education, Rock Hill, SC

Art History/Art Studio. Thesis topic: Duality: Coexistence of Freedom and

Constraint.

(The Influences of African Aesthetics in Southern Black Art) GPA 4.0.

1990-1993 **University of North Carolina.** B.S. Art Education, Charlotte, NC

Art Education/Art studio/Art History *magna cum laude*.

1986-1988 **Central Piedmont Community College,** AA Degree, Advertising Design,
Charlotte, NC

1975-1979 **Morgan State University.** B.S. Psychology Baltimore, MD

Solo Exhibitions

2021 *Ancestral Threads*, Sumter Gallery of Art (April-June) Sumter, SC

2009 *Duality*. One Women Show- Contemporary fiber works depicting Yoruba inspired
Egungun masquerade costumes. Dalton Gallery-Rock Hill, SC (April-June)

2007 *White Plains*, Central Piedmont Community College (Jan.-March) Charlotte, N.C.

Juried

2019 *Coined In The South*, Mint Museum, Charlotte, NC (Sept.1-March 6)

2018 *29th International and National Exhibition*, Viridian, New York, NY

2013 *Beyond the Curve: Celebrating Women's Vision*, Civic and Cultural Arts Center,
Pineville, NC

2012 *Small Stories, Connective Threads*, Brooklyn, NY

2012 *15th Open International*, Woman Made Gallery, Chicago, IL

2009 *The 20th International Juried Show*, Viridian Artists Gallery (June 30- July 18) New
York, NY

2007 *CMS Art Teacher Exhibition*, Art Institute of Charlotte (Oct-Dec)

Group Exhibitions

2022 *Still Standing*, Brooklyn Collective, Charlotte, NC (March-May)

2021 *Coup D'Etat*, Art Basel Miami, Miami, Florida (Dec. 1-4)

2021 *Visual Vanguard*, H.B. Gantt Center, Charlotte, NC, (Aug.-Jan.)

2020 *The Soul of Brooklyn*, Intersection Gallery, Charlotte, NC, (Sept.-Dec.)

2020 *Perspective and Prose*, SOZO Art Gallery, Charlotte, NC, (March-June)

2019 *New works/Alumni 2*, McColl Center for Art, Charlotte, NC, (Jan.-May)

2019 *Quilting the World's Conscience: Gallery Exhibit*, Texas Folk Life Gallery, Austin, Texas, (Feb.-May)

2019 *Yours for Race and Country: Reflections on the Life of Colonel Charles Young*, National Afro American Museum and Cultural Center, (Aug.-On Going)

201 *Visioning Human Rights and the New Millennium*, Fitton Center for Creative Arts, Hamilton, OH (Aug-Oct.)

2005 *Figures and Forms: 3-D Adventures with Space*, A juried show. Awarded Juror's Pick Award, Afro-American Cultural Center (Nov-Dec)

2003 *UNCC Alumni Invitational Exhibition*, Rowe's Art Gallery- Charlotte, NC (Jan-Feb)

2002 *Stitches in Time*, Greenwood Cultural Center, Tulsa, Oklahoma (permanent display)

2001 *Winter Artist in Resident*, McColl Center for Visual Art, Charlotte, NC (2001)

2000 *Spirits of the Cloth: Contemporary African American Quilters*, Mint Museum of Craft and Design, Charlotte, NC. *The Wanda Montgomery Memorial Expression Exhibition* (Quilt dedication) Afro-American Cultural Center, Charlotte, NC (Permanent display) \

Awards/Honors

- 2018** Viridian 29th International and National Juried Exhibition: First place
- 2012** Gail Peacock Teacher's Travel Award
- 2008-2018** National Board Certified/Renewal
- 2005** Juror's Pick Award
- 2001** Residence at McColl Center for Visual Arts
- 1999** Regional Artist Grant- Arts and Science Council
- 1999** Merit Award- Gaston County Museum
- 1996** Curators Choice- Afro-American Cultural Center

Press Release / Publications

- 2022** Roberts,Liza. Art of the State:Celebrating the Visual Arts of North Carolina. Chapel Hill, North Carolina, p.64
- 2022** "Ancestral Thread Lines". Art Quilting Studio, Autumn issue 3, p.40-45
- 2022** "Around the World". Quilting Diary, Summer issue 5, p. 65-64
- 2022** "Who is the Future of Quilting". Spoonflower, Sherri Lynn Wood: Blog. March 16
- 2021** " Five Textile Artists Exploring Contemporary Quilting". Culture magazine, Kendra Walker: Instagram. May 26
- 2021** " Our Own Stories", Uppercase Magazine, issue 51,p.42-47. September 12
- 2021** "Sew and Tell", American Patchwork and Quilting, issue 170,p.96. April 2
- 2020** "Curated section," Create Magazine, volume 19, 2018p.188-190. Jan. Create Magazine

- 2019** Fitton Center for Creative Arts,” Explore the Visioning Human Rights Exhibit, Hamilton, Ohio August 9
- 2019** McColl Center for Art and Innovation, “Create Your Own Quilt.” McColl Center, May 10
- 2019** Dr. C.L. Mazloomi. Visioning Human Rights and the New Millennium 2019 p. 160-161
- 2018** Dr. C.L. Mazloomi. Yours for Race and Country: Reflections on the Life of Colonel Charles Young, 2019. p.19
- 2018** Shantay Robinson, “The Quilting Tradition.”, November 9 Black Art in America, Columbus, GA.
- 2018** Shantay Robinson, “10 Emerging Black Female Artists to Collect.”, Black Art in America, Columbus, GA, June 14
- 2018** Press Release, Viridian 29th International Juried Exhibition, New York, NY, June 18

Art Catalogues

- 2022** Stephen Hayes, David Wison, “ Visual Vanguard”,Charlotte, NC, Feb. 2
- 2018** Linda Luise Brown, "UNCC Roderick Mackillop Memorial Alumni Art Exhibition Review", Charlotte, NC, March 16
- 1996** Harry Harrison, "Evidence of a Culture Breaking the Silence", Pineville, NC, June 7

Television,

- 2021** 3 WBTV, “interview “Artist finds Family Connection”, Charlotte, NC, April
- 2020** 3 WBTV,” interview “Exhibit Tells Legacy”, Charlotte, NC, November 11

2006 Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Broadcasting TV, Interview “Above and Beyond”,
Charlotte, NC, Jan-Feb

2001 Karen Keith, Interview, Oklahoma Living, Tulsa, Oklahoma, May

News Articles

2021 Sumter Item, “Exhibition Explore Memory”, April 5

2020 Charlotte Observer, “Exhibit shows legacy of Charlotte’s uptown Brooklyn
neighborhood”. October 11

2012 *Charlotte Observer*, “Retired Art Teacher Rewards Others with Cultural Trips.”
March 26

2009 *Charlotte Observer*, “CMS Global Spin On Education.” April 19. p.1R

2005 *Charlotte Observer*, “Art Teacher’s Quilts Win Award.” November 13. p. 4H

2003 *Charlotte Observer*, “Reunion for Graduates of Arts Programs.” January 19. p.2H

2001 *The Oklahoma Eagle*, “Stitches in Time.” May 10.p.2A, *Creative Loafing*, “New
Blood At The Tryon Center.” Feb. 3.p.10

2000 *Charlotte Observer*, “Someone You Should Know,” August 27. p.2B

Workshops/Lectures Facilitated

2022 Workshop: Harvey B. Gantt Center, “Ancestral Quilts”, Charlotte, NC Feb.

2022 Podcast: Foster, Zak. “Seaside,” Feb.5, Sunday, 11:59 est.

2021 Lecture: SOZO Art Gallery, “Uppity: The Blacker the Berry”, Charlotte, NC July

2019 Lecture: McColl Center for Art and Innovation,” Stimulus: Creations In Threads”,
Charlotte, NC June

2019 Workshop: McColl Center for Art and Innovation,” Create Your Own Quilt”,
Charlotte, NC, May

2007 Lecture: Clinton College, Rock Hill, SC- “Duality”, May

2001-2002 Demonstration: New Museum of the South, Charlotte, NC, Dec-Feb

2001 Workshop/lecture: Greenwood Cultural Center- Tulsa, Oklahoma, Aug

2001 Workshop: Mint Museum of Art- CMS Teacher, Charlotte, NC, Aug

2000 Workshop: Afro-American Culture Center- Common Threads, Charlotte, NC,
March