

## INFO ON GUILDS AND ARTISTS' STATEMENTS

### THE IMES SISTERS

South Jersey - Franklinville, NJ

#### **Barbara "Barb" Imes Jorden**

I began sewing at an early age, taught to me by my mother who was a "Sample" maker seamstress for the elite customers in the New York dress district. When I became an adult, I lost both legs, and had to learn a new way of quilting, which had become a new form of support for me. Switching from using legs to hands for sewing was a challenge; but I found my way. Right - hand powers the motor on the table, the left hand guides the fabric through the machine. Over the years, this Art has taken me on an unbelievable journey. First, as co-founder of an African American quilt guild that received recognition for its work. My group also found its way on local TV network in NJ, the Trenton NJ State Museum, and the New York Times. Personally, I was requested to exhibit my quilts around the country; from east coast to west coast and back. During this time, I had made many award-winning quilts for originality and workmanship. With all good intentions, I drafted and designed a quilt for President Barack Obama during his presidency. Unable to have any luck with this task, I will try again, when his museum comes to fruition. My sister and I also designed and made a wonderful quilt honoring "The Tuskegee Airmen " of WWII. Now, at the age of 84, I am still quilting and my most recent quilt is made of 1008 pieces of fabric into the "Log Cabin" design; my benefit is seeing the result.

#### **"Warrior Blues ©" Hand Appliqued/Quilted, \$1550**

I saw a sun catcher with similar African male figures at a friend's home. It inspired me and I wanted to create the entire work using African fabrics, which added the feeling of music and movement. Note the all-seeing eye over the entire scene and the musician paying close attention to the snake. The warriors may be playing music but are always ready for battle.

#### **"Ladies of Faith ©" Hand Appliqued/Quilted, \$1550**

Making this quilt helped me to cope and heal after major surgery. I had to have my second leg amputation because of smoking; no one said "don't smoke" after the first loss. Try learning to sew using one hand to push the foot pedal down as it rested on top of the table; using the other hand to guide the fabric through the machine. I saw the pattern in the fabric store and immediately thought of the joy my two grandmothers and my great aunts brought me and my sister every Sunday we visited with them after church so many years ago. My sister quilter, did not hesitate to embellish the dresses and hats for authenticity.

#### **"Memories and I Can't Go Back ©" Hand Appliqued, \$3500**

What can I say about making this quilt. I think the title tells you about my story. Looking back now at the age of sixty five+, holds lots of memories for me and I tried to incorporate these lifetime memories into something visible. I appropriated the female form images from a derogatory set of cocktail stirrers sold by whites in the 1940's which belonged to my Mom. The background fabrics represent each age of my life; as each female image represents me as I reflect on my past.

I enjoyed most of it. Good or bad; it really doesn't matter now. I WAS IN TOTAL SHOCK WITH WINNING SO MANY QUILT AWARDS FOR MY GIRLS..... MY LADIES DO ME PROUD!

**Jacqueline "Jacquie" Imes Jenkins**

As the mother of four young sons, I was glad I was taught how to sew and embroider by my mother while in grammar school coupled with a little more sewing in middle school, since I had to sew for myself as an adult. I learned how to quilt many years later, after my sons had moved out on their own and I was divorced. My sister treated me to a quilting class for my birthday; a time well spent, a most enjoyable time; exploring a wonderful art. I knew I had a little bit of drawing in my bloodline from my dad. I was able to express my creativity using fabric; carrying this legacy on from my ancestors. Twenty+ years lecturing, exhibiting, teaching, donating, but most of all quilting. One of the most memorable experiences I had was the opportunity to make and send quilts to the Lakota Indians in South Dakota. I have, and never without my sister, been recognized in books, on television, in museums, in nationwide publications and other treasured periodicals. I know I have made some lasting friends and elements of joy, knowing I instill a wonderment on those who view my work.

**"Mama: My hero, My Inspiration ©" Hand Appliqued/Quilted, \$2150**

My quilt is a tribute to all the mamas that lived and died, leaving their physical, mental, emotional and moral DNA; for coming generations risking the dream: whatever it is or whatever it can become.

**"Black Magic ©" European Crazy Quilting Style, \$2000**

This "European" crazy quilt technique was made by me as a tribute to my mother. She was a beautiful embroider as I was growing up. I wanted to learn hand sewing and with much patience mother taught me the basics of the art. Many years later I took a crazy quilt class and I put several pictures of myself in the project, just so the piece would not be misidentified. We all could use a change of identity once in a while.

**"A Place For Everything ©" Ethnic Crazy Quilting, \$1500**

There has been many years between my first and this my second sampler. A difference in method and a difference in style. See if you can find something important about health problems in America in this piece, I am happy with the results.

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**NUBIAN HERITAGE QUILTERS GUILD**

<http://www.nubianquilters.org/>

North Jersey

**Purpose:** The Nubian Heritage Quilters Guild was established to promote, preserve, and document the importance of African American quilting.

**History:** Fiber artist Glendora Simonson and quilt enthusiast Carolyn Davis' desire to provide a forum for the exchange of information and ideas along with a genuine appreciation of African American quilting gave forth an opportunity with others, to come together to promote friendship, fellowship, and share a common interest as the St. James Quilters (now known as the Nubian Heritage Quilters Guild). We met for the first time on March 11, 1995 through the generosity of the St. James AME Church in Newark, NJ at the Blake House. Currently we meet at The Glenfield Park House in Montclair, NJ.

We adopted the African Adinka symbol-Sankofa, and took its meaning, "Learning from the Past, in building for the Future" as our mission statement. We celebrate the legacy of African American quilting through our mutual quilting experiences. We transform and expand traditional quilting ideas by incorporating ethnic patterns and fabric. We do this in preservation of our heritage and to envision our creative future.

### **Carolyn Davis**

Quilter, teacher and creative thinker, is a co-founder of the Nubian Heritage Quilters Guild. Carolyn and her cat family live in Irvington, NJ.

**Artist Statement:** Quilting is a part of my creative heritage. As a fourth-generation quilter, I absorbed the talents of my grandmothers and carry on the family textile traditions. For the past several years, my artistic explorations were focused on Black Lives Matter themes. In recognition of my peoples struggle for human dignity, I've been working on a series related to lynching, both historic and present day. As co-founder of the Nubian Heritage Quilters Guild, I love sharing my creative gifts through teaching and inspiring others to embrace their creativity.

### **"Black Lives Matter" \$1200**

The quilt was designed with the theme "Black Lives Matter" it's a three part quilt in which each panel explains the history of African American treatments regarding our lives from Africa 1600 to American 2016. Panel 1 shows the starts of slavery from west coast of African with Africans are taken from their homes in chains. Panel 2 this panel shows the Lynching of African Americans. Panel 3 this one shows the killing with guns in today world. This quilt is only the beginning of a series of Black Lives Matter quilts for the next five years.

### **"African Dollars Short" \$850**

This quilt kit on which I made several changes with the colors of the African fabrics and the solid fabrics. I like working with the color black. To me it brings out my quilts with a zing to them. I found the giraffe baric and though it would be great to cut out some of the giraffe and put them on the quilt. It was fun to make the quilt.

### **Lynda DuBois-Jackson**

I became familiar with quilts because my Grandmother was a quilter. The quilts my Grandmother made were functional, beautiful and handmade. My reintroduction to the art of quilting came in 2006 when my girlfriend suggested I make a quilt. From that I began to love the art. I started my business, Quiltz and Thingz in 2007. I now specialize in wall hangings, photo quilts, tee shirt quilts and quilted jackets. Bed quilts are custom orders. Several of my quilts have won prizes. Recently, I won prizes at the Union County Senior Citizens Art Exhibit in 2020, 2021 and 2022. I also received a Certificate of Excellence from New Jersey State Council on the Arts. I am on the executive board of The Nubian Heritage Quilters Guild of New Jersey. I have taught classes to members of the guild and the seniors in Plainfield, New Jersey. For more information, please visit [www.quiltzandthingz.com](http://www.quiltzandthingz.com).

#### **“Diva” \$350**

The piece, “Diva”, reminds me of date night with my husband. I dress up, he brings me flowers, and we go out. The painting on fabric technique, is one of many workshops that is given at the Nubian Heritage Quilters.

### **Glendora Simonson**

A native of Newark, New Jersey. An educator by profession, Ms. Simonson has evolved from sewing and craft hobbyist to fiber artist. In addition to Artist-in-Residency at both the Newark Museum and YEMA Gallery, Ms. Simonson has taught a variety of craft classes and also exhibited quilts in various settings. They include Museums, Colleges, Art Centers, Art Galleries, Public Libraries, as well as local Historical Society. Ms. Simonson has received commissions to design quilts and been featured in McCall’s Quilting Magazine, a national quilting publication. Intrigued by representational and abstract design possibilities, the focus of her artwork is an exploration of color progression, fabric manipulation and collage. Ms. Simonson not only embraces traditional feminine textile crafts, but also seeks opportunities to immerse herself in vital female energy. She is equally inspired by an African-American ancestry that informs her work, impacts her artistic sensibilities, and indulges a desire to create exciting contemporary works which, nonetheless, employ traditional skills. Ms. Simonson is a co-founder of the Nubian Heritage Quilters Guild and Nubian Sisters and Company. She and her three children live in East Orange, New Jersey.

#### **“Motherless Child” \$1850**

This quilt was inspired by the horrific separation and inhumane treatment of migrant children at the southern border of the United States, images of paper dolls, a sale notice of small child, as well as African tribes taken in the Atlantic Slave Trade. Lastly, the mournful words of the African-American Spiritual, drift in the waters surrounding the African continent. American history includes multiple examples of people de-humanized, degraded and traumatized by family separation: The Slave Trade, Native American Indian Schools, Japanese Internment Camps. Clearly, we have not learned the lessons from our past, and so, the atrocities continue. Déjà Vu

### **“Traveling Shoes” \$1500**

This quilt depicts memories of trips to South Carolina with my mother. As a child, I didn't realize that “shoebox lunches” were a necessity when traveling “down south” because colored people couldn't eat in train dining cars. Culinary prowess and survival instincts combined to meet daily challenges facing African-Americans. Hearty fried chicken, delicious pound cake, portable fruit and sandwiches packed in a shoebox traveled well. This quilt also pays homage to the Civil Rights Movement by featuring the shoes of protest marchers and young bombing victims from the Birmingham church. Lastly, America's first Black President, Barack Obama, is memorialized by shoes that are, literally and figuratively, too big for his successor to fill.

### **“Ode to Market Street” \$575**

Inspired by Anita Lobel's delightful children's book *On Market Street*, created as a guild challenge quilt “Life is Short, Eat Dessert First”. This quilt is adorned with a variety of scrumptious desserts from her head to her toes! Doughnuts, Ice Cream Sundaes, Chocolate Covered Strawberries and Pretzels, Oh My!

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## **Princeton Sankofa Stitchers Modern Quilt Guild**

<http://sankofastitchers.blogspot.com/>

### **Central Jersey**

The Princeton Sankofa Stitchers Modern Quilt Guild (PSSMQG) was formed in late 2015 by a group of African American women who began getting together casually to quilt and to share information about the craft. As the group grew, they decided to formalize and become an official guild. Members of the group decided to call the guild Sankofa Stitchers to reflect its identity as a group that worked with African and African American fabrics, designs, and cultural experiences. The group also added “Princeton” to its name to honor their start in Princeton, to recognize resident members, and to make it easier to find the group on social media. In 2019, group joined the Modern Quilt Guild (MQG), a national organization of quilters. PSSMQG is proud to have members from several states. The name of the guild is derived from “Sankofa [SAN (return), KO (go), FA (look, seek and take)] is a symbol used by the Akan people of Ghana to represent the idea of reaching back to the past to acquire knowledge that has been lost to make progress in the present. PSSMQG believes strongly in the idea that learning from the past serves as a guide in planning and securing a strong future. The group's motto is “Each one, Teach one.”

### **Ora Brown**

I am a native of NJ born and raised in Trenton, NJ, and retired OB-GYN Nurse. My first love was Counted Cross-Stitch, but after I had a stroke, I was no longer able to hold or feel a needle in my fingers, so I bought a sewing machine and started making all kinds of small crafts as gifts, (Pillows, Pouches, Baby Gifts etc.) One Sunday after church, my friend Jane Wyche ask me if I quilted. I said “no,” but that I would love to learn, so she introduced me to the Sankofa Stitchers, which I joined

about five years ago . The rest is history. When I was young, my mother made a lot of my clothing because I was taller than most, and she had to make my clothes longer. I would watch her, but was not that interested in sewing, and liked outside sports. When I got into high school I had the same problem ( The so called one-size-fit all that was not true for tall me). So, I started making my clothes and the more compliments I got, the more my interest in sewing grew. I have been a crafter all my life, which learned from my mother, I remember learning to Knit with Pencils at a very early age. I have been quilting for my children, Grandchildren, family and friends and they love the homemade gifts with all the love and time put into them, and I love seeing all the wonderful reactions. My Husband is my #1 fan.

**“What a Wonderful View” \$200**

When I first saw this panel I looked at it and said to myself,” What a wonderful view, sitting by a large window relaxing,” and that's what I called it, What a Wonderful View.

**Mary Ellen Assue**

Mary Ellen Assue is a Silver Spring, Maryland native whose early interest in textile art can be attributed to growing up in an artistic family. Her mother first introduced her to garment sewing at age 8, and from there she became passionate about sewing, crochet, and embroidery. Working as a Classical musician in New York City, Mary Ellen would spend her spare time taking classes at the Fashion Institute of Technology to hone her sketching, fashion design, and couture skills. It was not until the birth of her first child in 2012 that she was drawn to quilt making. In the art of quilts, she finds a place for expression in utility. She loves the long-term process of designing and making her own quilts. Favorite materials include cotton and linen in modern prints or bright solids, but as a lover of texture, Mary Ellen incorporates various types of fabrics in her quilts including silk, velvet, corduroy, and denim. As a lover of all parts of the quilting process, Mary Ellen most frequently quilts her own pieces, usually in free motion.

**“Kinfolk” \$1,200**

Inspired by my children’s daily neighborhood walk, this quilt was born of a photograph I captured on one such ordinary day. The herringbone background features a wide variety of hand-dyed fabrics that illustrate the colorful, zig-zagging, aimless gait of young children. To achieve the herringbone shapes, each seam was first sewn partially, then a second time so that each fabric is connected to another piece more than once. I chose this design in the background to reflect the children’s relationship with each other, the give and take, ebb and flow, and the conflict and resolution between the siblings. The quilting stitches used to hold the layers together make several braided shapes on the quilt surface. The braiding design echoes how their interaction curves and twists as they meander through their neighborhood.

**Tony Jean Dickerson, Ph. D.**

Dr. Tony Jean Dickerson is a lifelong sewist and 2nd generation quilter who turned her focus from creating clothing to the art of manipulating tiny pieces of fabric into quilts at the tender age of 50! Born and raised in Indianapolis, IN, she spent some 30 years as an educator in the Kansas City, Missouri area before returning to Indy in 2017. A 2019 graduate of Kansas University’s Educational Leadership and

Policy Studies Doctoral program, she is a semi-retired Title I Math Specialist at a local charter and she is the founder and president of the Akoma Ntoso Modern Quilt Guild of Central. Her guild members range in age from 7 years to 70+ years and balance their efforts towards those projects that are aesthetically comforting and those that are socially relevant and educational. Dr. Dickerson loves a challenge and has decided that she wants to turn her interest to hand sewing in 2022. Always for finding a way to honor her mother with her craft, Tony's mother sewed her quilts exclusively by hand. She is particularly interested in the Kawandi quilts created by the African Siddi people of India. This process involves taking beautiful scraps of material and creating a hand sewn quilt from the outside in. Dickerson is in awe of how the quilts are so reminiscent of the ones her mother created.

### **“Aqua Scrappy” \$250**

The Aqua Scrappy provided an opportunity to combine my three current obsessions: scrappy quilts, batiks, and my favorite color teal.

### **Mada Coles Galloway**

Mada Coles Galloway is a retired educator of 34 years. She has a BS from the College of New Jersey and a Masters of Educational Psychology from Temple University. She has studied interior design and enjoys creating unexpected yet harmonious color palettes. Mada has always been interested in various needle crafts, but quilting remains her passion. She frequently used quilting as one vehicle to teach math and American history. Modern traditional and improvisational quilting are her favorite styles and she enjoys creating her own patterns. Mada has exhibited her quilts in shows and currently belongs to two quilt guilds. She currently serves on the Human and Civil Rights committee for Mercer County, and the board of the Mercer County NJ Teachers Federal Credit Union.

### **“Morse Code Ubuntu Hidden Messages” (quilting: Olga Butora) \$1000**

This quilt is an original design inspired by the South African concept of Ubuntu which can be interpreted to mean, “human kindness, humanity,” or the idea that, “I am because we are.” I heard the word Ubuntu first used by Desmond Tutu when he explained that it is a theology by which all humans should live. If we would apply the philosophy of Ubuntu in this country, I believe we can change the course of political unrest and corruption, racial injustice, poverty and oppression that we are plagued with today. Morse code and words quilted into the background spell out the key principles of Ubuntu. Humanity, spirit, respect, and morality are a few of the words that can be discovered.

### **“Africa Flies Home” (quilting by: Olga Butora) \$2000**

This quilt is made up of sixteen blocks, eleven of which were made by members of PSSMQG. The blocks represent some aspects of African American life: family, love, community, religion and our past. The flying geese represent enslaved Africans taken from their homeland, and those who were able to return in body or spirit. The majority of the fabrics used on the front and back are vintage and new African fabrics including mud cloth.

### **Rose Mary Briggs**

Rose Mary recalls machine sewing as early as age ten with supervision, and hand stitched crafts and doll clothes at an earlier age. She grew up in a household with a mother who sewed. Store bought clothing



was complemented with hand or machine-made embellishments. Second hand clothing was altered to fit the person and occasion. Vogue and McCall patterns were purchased to create attire to reflect trending styles and special occasions. Her family pedal-powered Singer sewing machine was well used. Additionally, she learned to make curtains and upholster furniture. Gifts for many seasons and reasons were sewn by hand. I was introduced to the art and craft of quilting in my fourth year of college. It was during that time she had met a skilled and seasoned hand quilter who created quilts for her livelihood. It was not until 2017 that she actually started to quilt. The members of Sankofa Stitchers, an African-American quilt group, have been teaching her the foundation of quilting using a variety of quilt patterns, materials, techniques and tools. Rose Mary is open to learning all types of quilting, likes many types of fabric including batiks, African, geometric prints, as well as those with visual interest, feel and color. Her favorite color is blue, and she's made mostly wall and lap quilts to date. Rose Mary is a rescue cat and dog lover, enjoys gardening, watching interior design shows and going to estate sales.

**“Kufua Mguo” (quilting: Eugenie Wagner), \$200**

“Hand laundering can be a meditative experience. Touching and examining details of the garment. Checking colors, threads and seams. Watching water cleanse the soul of the garment. Thinking of the day's value.”

**Juandamarie Gikandi**

Juandamarie Gikandi is a textile artist who learned various needle arts as a child. A self-taught quilter, she comes from a long line of Arkansan women who were known for their talents with needle and thread. Her primary inspiration is the inheritance of a 1920's hand sewn quilt stuffed with raw cotton made by her grandmother's aunt in Arkansas. Taking her cue from the experiences of people who suffered the Africa Diaspora, Juandamarie uses a myriad of fabrics to create works that interpret traditional forms of quilting through new and original patterns. Juandamarie is a retired Social Studies educator. She received her Ed.M. from Harvard Graduate School of Education, and B.A. from the University of Massachusetts at Boston. Juandamarie is committed to expanding, recognizing, preserving, and teaching about the importance of material culture in the African American community. She is dedicated to doing philanthropic work that focuses on the needs of women and children. Juandamarie is a member of several quilt guilds including Christian Compassion Quilters (Philadelphia, PA), Akoma Ntoso Modern Quilt Guild (IN), African American Quilters of Baltimore (MD), Brown Sugar Stitchers (GA), and is the founding president of The Princeton Sankofa Stitchers Modern Quilt Guild (NJ).

**“Happy Birthday Mother: ASB”, NFS**

This quilt was born of a desire to recreate my eldest daughter, Dr. Ayanna Sheree Brown's beautiful collage greeting cards in textiles. I am the woman overlooking the Atlantic Ocean at Inkwel Well Beach enjoying the calming sounds of the ocean waves. The quilt is hand appliqued using hand dyed fabrics and batiks. The texture in the hand quilting evokes a sense of the horizontal movement of water that accompanies the rising and falling of the tide. My daughter passed away suddenly this March. Now, when I sit and gaze across the ocean it's to connect with Sheree's beautiful spirit that has flown back home to the ancestors. I find comfort in knowing that hers was a life well lived, and that I have this piece to connect with her.



## Christina Johnson Quilters of the Round Table

<https://www.facebook.com/QuiltersoftheRoundTable/>

Philadelphia

### Christina Johnson

I use my art to give voice to my personal experiences, to the invisible and to those who walk on the fringes of our culture and or to address stereotypical myths and issues, which threaten to tear apart the basic foundation on which our nation was built. It is important to me to find strength in communicating the reality of our relationships and to seek ways to address social change activism. New experiences exposed me to groups of women, who walk on the fringes of our society and culture, seeking ways to express or give voice and credence to their lives. Art for social change forces me, the artist to question what I can do to help others be more aware of issues. Working with HIV infected women, challenged me to examine my lack of (compassion and) knowledge of who and what has caused the increase of the disease, especially in African American women; traveling to Jamaica to teach quilting skills at a women's cooperative exposed me to another country's women with limited self-sufficiency; and creating art with cancer patients, help me to heal weary souls, mine included. As I, too, was a cancer patient. Little did I know or understand how these activities would affect my art and shape life views about self and the community and culture in which I live. The artist I am today surfaced when I began working as a teaching artist in our local school district. Children's innocence has a way of touching us to our core. Their artwork is simple and truthful. After creating work with third graders, which I consider my signature piece, it helped me define who I am as an artist. It is through my creations that people will get to know me and what I consider important – family, friends, my faith, peace and social justice. (Christina is founder of the *Quilters of the Round Table*, Philadelphia)

### **“Peering Through a Window in Accra” \$575**

**African fabrics, couched gimp, bone button, and glass charms, machine quilted with metallic thread**

Late at night, I arrived in Accra, the capital of Ghana, West Africa. The next morning, I anxiously looked out a window to view the neighborhood. The colors, bright and vibrant – the buildings, the people and their skin tones, their clothing, the fabrics, amazed me. This wall hanging reflects the colors and rhythms of Accra.

### **“African Rhythm” NFS**

Quilt was commissioned for client's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday who wanted African fabrics in cool vibrant colors. Materials used include 72 – 100% cotton African fabrics and 2 batiks. It's adorned with Cowrie shells and a brass symbol from Ghana, West Africa.