

Project Title: "Quilting the Fragments of Freedom: Ritual, Resistance, and the Sacred Act of Making"

Project Description:

In the lineage of Black creative resistance, this work exists as both a meditation and an act of defiance—an insistence on wholeness in the face of historical and ongoing fragmentation. At Crosstown Arts, I will engage in the deeply embodied practice of quilting, stitching together stories of Black survival, liberation, and the liminal spaces between. The quilt, much like the archive of our collective memory, holds history in its folds, bearing witness to the ways we have always made something out of nothing, transformed suffering into beauty, and stitched our way home.

This project is rooted in an ethic of care, an honoring of the self and the ancestors through labor, sound, and materiality. The residency will allow me to create large-scale quilted tapestries alongside video and sound installations that summon the voices of the past into dialogue with the present. Sound baths—immersive, sonic rituals—will be interwoven into the process, offering spaces of rest, renewal, and reclamation. Here, sound is both a call and a balm, a means of holding and healing the wounds of generational trauma.

In the spirit of communal making, I will invite engagement through research talks and shared reflections on the ways Black people have historically used textiles, performance, and sound to map geographies of freedom. This is a practice of remembering and reimagining—a reaching back to pull the future forward. Through this work, I seek not only to create but to invoke, to bear witness, and to call forth a radical re-visioning of liberation as a continuous act of creation.

Measurable Goals and Objectives for the Project

1. **Create a New Body of Work** – Develop at least **five large-scale quilted tapestries** and **two video performance pieces** integrating historical and contemporary narratives of Black liberation.
2. **Experiment with New Techniques** – Utilize Crosstown Arts' facilities to explore **material innovations in fiber arts, digital media, and mixed media installations** to expand my interdisciplinary approach.
3. **Engage in Research and Reflection** – Incorporate archival research and oral histories into my creative process to deepen the conceptual framework of my work.
4. **Foster Artistic Dialogue** – Participate in **residency critiques, artist talks, and community engagement activities** to refine my practice and build networks for future collaborations.
5. **Develop an Exhibition Plan** – Curate a cohesive body of work for **future exhibitions at galleries and museums**, ensuring broad dissemination of the project's outcomes.

Timeframe for the Project

June 3 – July 31, 2025 (Two-Month Residency)

- **Week 1:** Orientation, material sourcing, research, and experimentation with new fiber techniques.
- **Week 2–5:** Begin large-scale quilt construction and video performance conceptualization.
- **Week 6–7:** Complete textile works, record/edit video performances,

- **Week 8:** Documentation, refinement, and preparation for presentation, final critique, artist talk, and wrap-up of residency.
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How the Project Will Enhance Teaching and Research at Lincoln University

1. **Curricular Integration** – The project will inform **studio courses at Lincoln University**, particularly *Fundamentals of 2D Design* and *Mindfulness and the Process of Drawing*, by incorporating **textile-based storytelling and mixed media approaches**.
 2. **Student Engagement** – Upon returning, I will **host a workshop and lecture** for students, demonstrating techniques and discussing the intersection of art, history, and activism.
 3. **Expanding Research in Black Freedom Studies** – This project aligns with **Lincoln University's Mellon III: Black Freedom Studies initiative**, providing new perspectives on how art can serve as a tool for historical reflection and healing.
 4. **Strengthening Institutional Partnerships** – The residency will help establish connections with **Crosstown Arts, Memphis-based artists, and curators**, creating opportunities for student collaborations and external exhibitions.
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How the Outcome of the Project Will Be Measured

- **Completion of Artworks** – At least five quilted tapestries and two video performance works will be created.
 - **Residency Engagement** – Participation in Crosstown Arts critiques, artist talks, and networking events.
 - **Post-Residency Integration** – Implementation of **at least one workshop and artist talk at Lincoln University** to share research findings.
 - **Future Exhibitions** – The new body of work will be considered for **exhibition at galleries and museums**, ensuring a broader impact.
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How, When, Where, and With Whom the Project's Outcome Will Be Shared

1. **Residency Presentation** – I will present my work during a **Crosstown Arts artist talk at the end of the residency** (July 2025).
2. **Lincoln University Exhibition and Talk** – A post-residency showcase will take place at **Lincoln University's Amos Gallery**, featuring my completed works and a discussion on art and liberation.
3. **Conference Presentation** – I will submit my research and artistic outcomes to **conferences and national arts symposia** in 2026.
4. **Digital Dissemination** – The project's progress and insights will be shared via **social media and academic/arts publications**.