

Visioning Human Rights in the New Millennium: Quilting the World's Conscience

"According to the United Nations., every human—just by virtue of being human—is entitled to freedom, a fair government, a decent standard of living, work, play, and education, freedom to come and go as we please and to associate with anyone we please, and the right to express ourselves freely."

Visioning Human Rights in the New Millennium is a call for action in the global struggle for human rights. Through artistic expression, utilizing the canvas of quilts, the artists in Visioning Human Rights in the New Millennium: Quilting the World's Conscience interpret the thirty articles of the Declaration of Human Rights.

The first recorded initiation of human rights occurred in 539 BC, when Cyrus the Great of Persia, freed all slaves after he conquered the city of Babylon. Cyrus also declared people has the freedom to choose their own religion. A clay tablet, known as the Cyrus Cylinder, listed each of his statements on human rights, and is the first Declaration of Human Rights known to mankind.

The United Nations Declaration of Human Rights had its genesis on February 16, 1946, when the United Nations established a Human Rights Commission. Its establishment was precipitated by the horrific human rights violations suffered by victims of World War II. Eleanor Roosevelt was a member of the Commission and would go on to be elected its chairperson. Roosevelt brought to the table her compassion and commitment to human dignity, her empathy for the plight of the refugees of World War II, and her experience in politics and lobbying.

Eleanor Roosevelt's undertaking was a difficult one. Getting the nations of the world to unilaterally agree on one document for human rights was not an easy task. Finally, after two years of negotiations, the General Assembly of the United Nation adopted a resolution endorsing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10, 1948. The document represents the first global expression of rights to which all human beings are innately entitled. Eleanor Roosevelt considered her role in crafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to be the most important accomplishment in her life.

Defined in the Declaration of Human Rights are four core freedoms vital to the progress of all human beings: freedom of speech, freedom of belief, freedom from want and freedom from fear. All people are entitled to these rights, regardless of "distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status." All human rights impact one another, and the violation of one right inhibits the actualization of others. The document is used by Amnesty International as their founding document, and is the most translated document in the history of the world.

In liberation struggles throughout the history of the world, arts activism has been central to the fight for human rights. The artists position themselves in the abiding tradition of using of the arts to raise consciousness, voice social inequities, and build community. Artistic expression allows us to find, examine and share what is within ourselves, how we view the world, and what changes are worth fighting for. The exhibited quilts are integral parts of our fight for human rights.

In this book, *Visioning Human Rights in the New Millennium*, fiber artists render works that connect the viewer in an immediate visual dialogue with issues that might not otherwise be accessible, transcending language barriers, and negotiating difficult topics with diverse audiences. The international artists in *Visioning Human Rights in the New Millennium* engage viewers in human rights discourse in a powerful way.

The arts allow us to articulate and challenge oppressions and expand our imaginations. We quilt our joy, struggles, our concerns and our vision for a brighter future. Furthermore, the freedom to participate in arts and cultural work is itself a human right. The right to experience, develop, and articulate our cultures is a necessary component of realizing the full range of human rights to which we are all entitled by virtue of being human. All people have the right to develop, participate in, and enjoy cultural lives.

Our worlds have become increasingly more interconnected, with new technologies changing the way we communicate. It is time we abandon the idea of "them" and "us" and begin to see humankind as one.

The objective of the book is to educate and inspire people to understand the meaning of human rights in its best practice, as well as human rights violations around the world, and the terrible consequences resulting from intolerance and bigotry. The art works will encourage reflection, and create dialogue around some of the most challenging human rights issues of our times. It is our goal to broaden the human mind by using art to communicate, engage, teach and heal.

Carolyn L. Mazloomi

United Nations Declaration of Human Rights

Preamble

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,

Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,

Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in co-operation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,

Now, Therefore THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY proclaims THIS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

Article 1.

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

The Lesson and the Equation

Tierney Davis (Bend, OR); 2016; 50 x 50 inches; commercial cotton, cotton batting, appliquéd, machine pieced and quilted.

My father grew up in the segregated South in the 1940s and embraced at an early age that change comes from respectful dialogue, not violence. He taught us that regardless of what adversity we faced in life, we must face it with grace; and treat others with respect, dignity, and brotherhood. The foundation for a life lived embracing the values illustrated in Article I, begins at home, modeled and mentored by the adults in a child's life.

Article 2.

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

Black Lives Matter

Deanna Tyson (Cambridge, United Kingdom); 2016; 50 x 50 inches; African and commercial fabric, netting, cotton batting, machine appliquéd and quilted.

In my quilt the central figure is a powerful symbol, Liberty, a woman of color, and representative of all women. The young patriot to the right of Liberty represents the downtrodden youth of the nation calling for recognition and their own civil rights. To the left of Liberty, replacing the aristocratic figure in a top hat runs a representative of the LGBT Rights movement. A butterfly, the very symbol of freedom, flutters around his hat.

Article 3.

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Cruelty Come for Us All

James Mardis (Lewisville, TX); 2015; 47 x 48 inches; recycled cotton, wood, metal framing, skull bone buttons, novelty found objects, linen, leather, clay, ink dyed fabric, ink, shells, polyester, cotton and metallic threads, Pellon fusible fleece; collage, hand and machine sewn.

Cruelty Come for Us All is a multi-story tapestry using a traditional patchwork quilt pattern: Courthouse Steps. There is an original narrative poem on the piece that asks the question about the necessity of cruelty. The entire right quadrant of the tapestry is a tribute and a caution to just sixteen of the growing myriad victims of what seems to be official cruelty by Police.

Article 4.

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Bloodties

Sandra Scott (Cambridge, United Kingdom); 2016; 50 x 50 Inches; commercial cotton, cotton batting, safety pins, metallic fabric, netting, acrylic paint, machine appliqué and quilted.

Blood Ties was created to highlight the issues of early childhood marriages, female genital mutilation (FGM) and the general mistreatment of young girls.

Article 5.

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Capital Punishment

Helen Murrell (Cleveland, Hts.); hand dyed cotton, cotton batting, acrylic paint; hand painting, machine quilted.

The U.S. is one of the few remaining industrialized countries that practices the death penalty. My quilt, Abolish Capital Punishment, articulates my belief that the death penalty is a human rights violation not far removed from the lynching of black people that I heard stories of in my childhood.

Article 6.

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

Going Beyond the Self: Lale and the Omo Children

L'Merchie Frazier (Boston, MA); 2016; 50 x 50 inches; tulle, cotton batting, layered collage and quilted.

This quilt celebrates the amazing true story of La le Labuko and his journey, despite the odds of personal danger, to protect the lives of children, to bring a progressive cultural shift in his village, to confront his own death and the elders about the traditional practice of "mingi", or cursed. He raises the bar of humanity to protect the lives of the children.

Article 7.

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

So What Skeletons Are In Your Closet?

Ed Johnetta Miller (Hartford, CT); 2016; 2017; 50 x 50 inches; commercial cotton, photo-transfer, cotton batting, machine pieced, appliqué and quilted.

I recall the book *Without Sanctuary: Lynching Photography in America*, seeing hundreds of gleeful whites, men, women, and children, attending the lynching of African Americans. Watching the charred and mutilated bodies swinging from trees. I often wonder where those people who took such pleasure in our torment and pain are. Where are they? Do they have remorse? Do their children and grandchild know about their racist behavior, or do they hide these skeletons in their closet.

Article 8.

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

Parole Denied

Lauren Austin (Ann Arbor, MI); 2016; 50 x 50 inches; hand-dyed and hand-blocked cotton fabric, cotton batting, machine appliqué and quilted.

"Parole Denied" is about the parts of the US judicial system hidden from public view. I want to always remember the women behind bars, and their resistance against a system that denies them any hope. I created this work to remember my visits to people in prisons and jails - and to acknowledge the denial of human rights and the denial of humanity in the strange ways of the visitation rooms, parole boards, and jail and prison administration.

Article 9.

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Detainment

Sandra Noble (Warrensville Hts., OH); 2016; 50 x 50 inches, cotton fabric and batting, machine appliqué and quilted.

Detainment perpetuated worldwide is synonymous with captivity, internment and incarceration. Human trafficking attracts all races, genders and ages for the purpose of forced labor and prostitution. It occurs from the United States to the Sudan, from India to Argentina, from Sweden to Afghanistan...it is worldwide.

Article 10.

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

Waiting To Have My Say

Carolyn Crump (Houston, TX); 2017; 50 x 50 inches; hand painted, commercial fabric, cotton batting, machine appliqué and quilted.

African Americans often fail to get a fair trial in court when accused of a crime in the American justice system. The aphorism "innocent until proven guilty" does not apply. Early in American history, angry white mobs used violence as their own form of "justice," and carried out thousands of lynchings. The presumption of innocence doctrine has been described as the foundation of fairness in the American legal system.

Article 11.

(1) Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defense.

(2) No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

J'Accuse

Jim Smoot (Chicago, IL); 2016; 50 x 50 inches; hand painting on cotton, acrylic paint, hand quilted.

J'Accuse is my visual interpretation of "we're always innocent till proven guilty". Nobody should be blamed for doing something until it is proven. When people say we did a bad thing, we have the right to show it is not true. My depiction shows an unseen accuser, and a metaphorical victim under real or perceived confinement.

Article 12.

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honor and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

The Right to Privacy ... Big Brother is Watching

Theresa Polly Shellcroft (Victorville, CA); 2016; 50 x 50 inches; commercial cotton, machine appliqué and quilted.

Each of the quilt vignettes reminds us of our rights. The question being addressed in this work is the concern for privacy with the day and night gaze of Big Brother, symbolized by the Eye,

almost invisible here. Where does the Right to Privacy begin and end? Big Brother is watching! Is Big Brother watching to protect or is it interference with those rights?

Article 13.

(1) Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.

(2) Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

The Green Book

Ifa Felix (New York, NY); 2016; 50 x 50 inches; photo-transfer on cotton, machine piecing and quilted.

Commonly known as the Green Book, the Negro Motorist Green Book, was a guide to help African American travelers find businesses, shelter, food and services, during trips away from home. It was only after the passage the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Green Book ceased to be published because there was no need.

Article 14.

(1) Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.

(2) This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

The Waters Returned Him: In Honor of Aylan Kurdi, Age 3

April Shipp (Rochester Hills, MI); 2016; 50 x 50 inches, commercial and hand dyed cotton, velvet, mono-filament, poly batting, plastic, leather, buttons, machine pieced and appliqué, and machine quilted.

The shocking images of a young boy's body washed ashore on a beach in Turkey. Al Zaatari refugee camp in Mafraq Jordan, near the Syrian border, is home to more than 80,000 people who fled Syria. The cupped hands represent the ocean, as it cradles little Aylan Kurdi's tiny frame as they return him gently to the shore. The blood dripping from the fingertips symbolizes the innocent lives lost.

Article 15.

(1) Everyone has the right to a nationality.

(2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

Flags for the Dispossessed

Annie Grey (West Chester, OH), 2017; 50 x 50 inches; commercial fabric, printed, cotton batting, machine quilted.

Statelessness is a global problem affecting 15 million people. Dominicans of Haitian-descent in the Dominican Republic is an example of a country denying person's citizenship. This quilt is dedicated to the 200,000 Dominicans of Haitian descent, who were stripped of their citizenship by the Dominican Supreme Court in the Dominican Republic.

Article 16.

(1) Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.

(2) Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

(3) The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

On This Our Special Day

Gwendolyn Brooks (Washington, D.C.); 2016; 50 x 50 inches; commercial fabric, batik, organza, hand painting on cotton, cotton batting, beads, metallic fabric, lace, silk flowers, found objects, hand appliqué and quilted.

Individuals should be free to marry the person they desire regardless race, creed, nationality, or religion. Every human being deserves happiness sharing their lives with their spouse in peace, joy and harmony. The viewer of my quilt will observe two young people on their wedding day. This is both a joyous and exciting day for both of them.

Article 17.

(1) Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.

(2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

Hamtramck, My Home

Sharon Ray (Ann Arbor, MI); 2016; 50 x 50 inches; commercial fabric, hand painting, photo-transfer on cotton, cotton batting, machine appliqué and quilted.

Growing up in Hamtramck in a Polish town, the powers that be, wanted more land to build housing for their children to keep them in city, with their roots. The City decided to actively, and by any means necessary, move out and tear down homes where a majority of the black population lived.

Article 18.

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

A Prayer for all Girls

Michelle Flamer (Philadelphia, PA); 2016; 50 x 50 inches; commercial fabric, cotton batting, machine and hand appliqué and machine quilted.

When the Boko Haram kidnapped 276 Nigerian school girls in the middle of the night on April 14, 2014. This quilt is a prayer that all girls will receive the opportunity for a good education and have the right to worship as they please and marry who they love.

Article 19.

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Freedom of Expression over the Water

Gloria Kellon (Shaker Hts., OH); 2016; 50 x 50 inches; commercial fabric, cotton batting, machine appliquéd and quilted.

Throughout the world, people both children and adults have the same basic wants and needs. Freedom of expression is also one these needs. This quilt uses large extraordinary waves of the oceans and seas of our world to symbolize this concept. All are often haunted by the need to express their emotions, ideas and talents.

Article 20.

(1) Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

(2) No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

Let's Gather Peacefully

Julius Bremer (Cleveland, OH); 2016; 50 x 50 inches; commercial fabric, cotton batting, machine appliqué and quilted.

To be able to peacefully assemble, be it in our churches, supermarkets, schools, political houses, sports arenas or anywhere else, is the foundation for the advancement of intelligent discourse throughout the human race. Man will only grow when we can share our differences, scientific knowledge, educational techniques, and many other advances. If we cannot find peaceful grounds to assemble, mankind will atrophy and become as primal as the lowest form of life on the planet.

Article 21.

(1) Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.

(2) Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.

(3) The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

Deeds, Not Words

Carolyn Crump (Houston, TX); 2016; 50 x 50 inches; commercial fabric, cotton batting, machine appliqué and quilted.

In my quilt, Deeds, not Words, I chose to visualize the difficulty women had to endure to get the right to vote. The slogan, Deeds not Words, was coined by English suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst, of the new Women's Social and Political Union in England. The 19th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution granted women to right to vote in 1920. It took women in the United States 70 years of protesting to get right to vote.

Article 22.

Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

INSERT IMAGE: Article 22_DBurge

Stop Killing Us

Dorothy Burge (Chicago, IL); 2016; 50 x 50 inches; hand-dyed, commercial cotton, cotton batting, photo-transfer on cotton, machine appliqué, pieced and quilted.

"Stop Killing Us" became the rallying cry for African Americans those whose lives were threatened by police, community and family violence. It is my way to give a face to the many young people have been killed or traumatized by violence. It is a call for the lives of African American youth to be respected, valued and protected.

Article 23.

- (1) Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favorable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.
- (2) Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.
- (3) Everyone who works has the right to just and favorable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.
- (4) Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

A Woman's Worth - Equal Pay for Equal Work

Earamichia Brown (New York City, NY); 2017; 36 x 48 inches; commercial cotton, cotton batting, silk and leather fabrics and Mistyfuse; fused, machine appliqué, machine quilted.

On March 27, 2017, Trump revoked the 2014 Fair Pay and Safe Workplaces order then-President Barack Obama put in place to ensure that companies with federal contracts comply with 14 labor and civil rights laws. In an attempt to keep the worst violators from receiving taxpayer dollars, the Fair Pay order included two rules that impacted women workers: paycheck transparency and a ban on forced arbitration clauses for sexual harassment, sexual assault or discrimination claims.

Article 24.

Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

No Rest for the Weary

Sauda Zahra (Durham, NC); 2016; 50 x 50 inches; hand-dyed and commercial cotton, cotton batting, machine appliqué and quilted.

According to the Human Rights Watch organization, there are millions of people, majority women and girls, who work as domestics in private households around the world. Domestic workers globally share a common history of having to work long hours for low wages, and often in inhumane work environments. These circumstances prevent domestic workers from having the freedom to determine how their time is spent.

Article 25.

(1) Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

(2) Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

Article 25

Glenda Richardson (Ft. Washington, MD); 2016; 50 x 50 inches; hand-dyed and commercial cotton, photo-transfer, cotton batting, machine appliqué and quilted.

Due to gender bias, women are often subject to domestic violence, lack of maternal care, sex trafficking, and lack of educational opportunities. This breeds the conditions that require the services outlined in Article 25. When a mother is affected, a generation of children are affected as well. In this piece I focused on the vulnerability of the child and the protective stance of the mother.

Article 26.

(1) Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

(2) Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

(3) Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

Plant a Seed

Beverly Y. Smith (Charlotte, NC); 2016; 50 x 50 inches; commercial cotton, acrylic paint, cotton batting, hand painting, machine embroidery, appliqué and quilted.

Some remarkable progress has been made toward achieving gender equality in education. Over the past three decades the ratio of girls to boys enrolled in school has risen at all levels. Through my artwork, I envision my legacy will be to share with society the knowledge that education provides opportunities, and benefits everyone when women have equal access to a quality education.

Article 27.

(1) Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

(2) Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

In the Family: Copyright Documents of Sadie Artis Wills

Betty Leacraft (Philadelphia, PA); 2016; 50 x 50 inches; commercial and hand-dyed cotton, photo-transfer, cotton batting, machine appliqué, pieced, and quilted.

My quilt contains, as its focus, a copyright application, instructions, and a copyright office response letter for product labels my maternal grandmother received in 1947 for her "Worlds Wonder Hair Aid and Tetter Salve". These documents are an example of how far copyright has evolved since 1947.

Article 28.

Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

Created To Be Me

Cynthia Lockhart (Cincinnati, OH); 2016; 50 x 50 inches; multi-layered assemblage of fabrics, recycled vintage fabric, hand painted fabrics; upholstery textiles, lace, netting, braids. In addition, accented with fibers, yarns, beading and silk screen patterning; hand and machine quilting, bias French edging, draping, collage and appliqué; including 3-D sculptural attributes.

The visual imagery in the artwork represents a free spirit and celebrates the unending possibilities of the power creativity. We are all human and have equal rights. We were born to dwell on this planet together and to contribute our talents and gifts to mankind in our unique ways.

ARTICLE 29

(1) Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.

(2) In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.

(3) These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Every Man, Woman, and Child

Barbara McCraw (Denton, TX); 2016; 50 x 50 inches; commercial and hand-dyed cotton, cotton batting, machine and hand appliqué, pieced, and machine and hand quilted

I designed my quilt with inspiration from the escaping refugees, their boats overflowing with frightened people, rocking wildly from side to side. I chose to represent them as one man, one woman, and one child, sailing on a calm sea instead, and the ocean filled with ideas and hopes for all people. When a society fails to feel responsibility for each other, we are doomed to fail.

Article 30.

Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.

The Dawn of Human Rights

Behrooz Assani (Liberty Township, OH); 2017; 50 x 50 inches; printed on cotton, cotton batting; machine quilted.

Cyrus the Great, was known as a peace-bringer and liberator. The account was inscribed on a cylinder of clay, now known as the Cyrus Cylinder. The major ideas captured by the cylinder are based on the notion that every human has basic freedoms. These include the right to practice a chosen religion, the right to compensation in return for work, and the freedom to migrate to a specific homeland, and equality between all races. These principles are, even today, considered to be basic human liberties, as seen in the first Chapter of the Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms.

(This cannot be made any shorter...the entire essence of the piece is lost.)