

Memories of Migration

Queens Library

Fabric project led by Karen Fitzgerald

Session 4 (of 6)

Participants will develop a drawing for their applique fabric hanging.

- We will begin by looking at story quilt examples. What choices have these artists made in telling the story through fabric?
- We review different types of fabrics, understanding that heavy and light-weight fabric can be combined. We discuss what makes a good backing fabric, what works best for applique sections.
- Participants notice color qualities of fabric. How can we use fabric to create the kind of contrast we want? What makes high contrast? (light and dark; hot and cold, patterned and un-patterned) If something is low contrast does that make it “bad”? NO! contrast is always a choice you make when designing an applique.
- Planning and drawing content to your particular story. Can you merge aspects of each person’s story? How will you show setting, detail? Some tips: plan on shapes that do not have fine, thin details. Some of these can be embroidered. Plan where you will wish to embed a lily-pad thread to activate part of the story.

Session 5 (of 6)

Participants begin constructing their applique fabric hanging

- We begin with a demonstration of how to applique using wonder under. We notice that tracing paper can be used to make a pattern for cutting discrete shapes.
- Partners divide the work: while one person makes patterns, another might wish to create larger shapes that fit the plan. One partner plans where on the backside of the piece the pocket will be for the lily-pad. Karen shows everyone how to make a simple pocket.
- Karen advises participants about reversal – if your shapes are not symmetrical, plan to pay attention to what happens when you cut shapes back-to-front. You might also wish to use mirror reversal and the “negative” areas cut away from a shape.

Session 6 (of 6)

Participants work toward completing their story fabric hanging

- Applique work continues.
- Karen demonstrates different ways to finish the edges of the piece.
- Karen demonstrates how to embed the wires for the lily-pads.