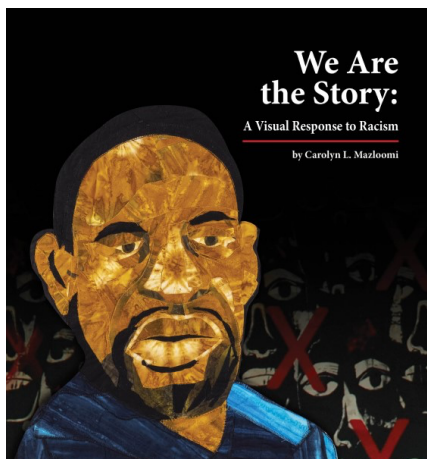


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We Are the Story* initiative culminates with *Racism: In the Face of Hate We Resist*, an exhibition of 63 art quilts at Textile Center in Minneapolis, as well as the upcoming release of the book *We Are the Story: A Visual Response to Racism

Co-presented by Textile Center and Women of Color Quilters and curated by Carolyn Mazloomi, *We Are the Story* was created as a visual response to racism in American following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis on May 25, 2020



(Minneapolis, MN) – *We Are the Story* is now entering its last months in the Twin Cities with the seventh and final quilt exhibition ***Racism: In the Face of Hate We Resist*** at Textile Center. This juried show, featuring 63 quilts, opened March 26 and runs through June 12, 2021. The exhibition is free and open to the public. Reservations required through textilecentermn.org.

Racism: In the Face of Hate We Resist is the second of two juried exhibitions presented at Textile Center in partnership with Women of Color Quilters Network (WCQN). The first juried show, ***Gone but Never Forgotten: Remembering Those Lost to Police Brutality***, was on view at Textile Center September 15 through December 24, 2020, and most recently at Lanesboro Arts in Lanesboro, Minn., February 13 through April 1, 2021. This exhibition will now be presented at Studio 106, in Burnsville, Minn., by appointment May 18 through June 12, 2021. Reservations can be made through the Textile Center website [here](#).

Textile Center is pleased to announce that it is partnering with Paper Moon Publishing to release *We Are the Story: A Visual Response to Racism* by Carolyn Mazloomi, the curator for *We Are the Story*. The target release date for this 200-plus page book is May 19, 2021, when more than 40 quilters from around the nation will participate in a three-day national convening of exhibition artists and friends in Minneapolis to view the exhibitions. Pre-orders for the book are now being accepted through [Textile Center's online Shop](#) and will be available in Textile Center's in-person Shop beginning May 19. The retail price is \$43.21 (including applicable tax).

As part of the national convening of quilters in Minneapolis, Textile Center and WCQN will present a culminating event titled *We Are the Story: A Visual Response to Racism* from 4 to 5:30 pm (CDT) Thursday, May 20, 2021. This event will mark the release of the new book and feature curator Carolyn Mazloomi in conversation with select visiting artists. The event will be live streamed from Textile Center via Zoom. [To register for this free Zoom event, click here.](#)

During the convening of the national artists, Textile Center will also reprise the the solo exhibitions *I Wish I Knew How it Feels to be Free / Quilts by Dorothy Burge (Chicago)*, and *Sacred Invocations / Quilts by Sylvia Hernandez (Brooklyn)* for public viewing in its auditorium from Tuesday, May 18, through Saturday, May 22, 2021.

The other two solo exhibitions that are part of *We Are the Story* are currently on view at the Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia) and the Weisman Art Museum (WAM). *Freedom Rising: I Am the Story / Quilts by L'Merchie Frazier (Boston)* is on view at Mia through September 19, 2021. *We Are the Story: The Protest Series / Quilts by Penny Mateer (Pittsburgh)* is being presented at WAM through May 23, 2021. Advanced reservations are required at Mia through its website, artsmia.org, and WAM is open to the public at 25% capacity (no reservation required).

The third group exhibition in *We Are the Story* was WCQN's *We Who Believe in Freedom*, which received its Minnesota premiere at the American Swedish Institute September 10 through November 1, 2020. Virtual exhibitions for all *We Are the Story* exhibitions are available on [Textile Center's website](#), as well as archived conversations from the *We Are the Story: Let's Talk About Race* series via Zoom.

ABOUT WE ARE THE STORY

When Minneapolis became the epicenter of the nationwide protest movement against police brutality and racism in America following the death of George Floyd on May 25, 2020, Textile Center and Women of Color Quilters Network (WCQN) joined forces to create *We Are the Story*, a multi-venue initiative in the Twin Cities, September 10, 2020, through June 12, 2021, curated by Carolyn Mazloomi.

“George Floyd’s cry to his Mama for maternal help, mirrors a symbolic guttural cry for help from the belly of our nation,” Carolyn Mazloomi says. “Our citizens are crying out for protection, comfort, and education. In response to that cry, and to help educate the public on brutality, inequities, and racism in America. Collectively, we wanted the exhibition quilts to tell the unsung stories that affect our understanding and inspire our resolve to end this unholy trinity of societal ills. Our group and solo exhibitions in *We Are the Story* were organized around the following themes: remembering those lost to police brutality, history of civil rights, and racism in America.”



Cracked Justice by Carolyn Crump of Houston, TX, serves as a signature quilt for *We Are the Story*. It is on exhibit at Textile Center through June 12, 2021.

***WE ARE THE STORY* EXHIBITION OVERVIEW**

All seven exhibitions are presented virtually on Textile Center's website. A comprehensive list of exhibition hours is posted textilecentermn.org/wearethestory. All exhibitions are free and open to the public, but appointments may be required at venues due to the COVID restrictions.

We Are the Story – Exhibition #1

Gone but Never Forgotten: Remembering Those Lost to Police Brutality

Textile Center, September 15 – December 24, 2020

Lanesboro Arts, February 13 – April 1, 2021

Studio 106, May 18 – June 12, 2021

Gone but Never Forgotten: Remembering Those Lost to Police Brutality is a national juried exhibition showcasing 26 quilts that honor those whose lives were violently ended due to police negligence and brutality, and critiques the targeting and criminalization of Black bodies throughout history.

We Are the Story – Exhibition #2

Racism: In the Face of Hate We Resist

Textile Center, March 26 – June 12, 2021

An international juried exhibition featuring 63 quilts, *Racism: In the Face of Hate We Resist* builds on these narratives by sharing the stories of resistance and fortitude that have been integral to the survival of Black people in America. During this time, quilts from the other *We Are the Story* exhibitions are intended to be exhibited at venues to be determined as part of a community-wide outreach initiative, providing an opportunity for our community to have one last comprehensive viewing as our community observes the first anniversary of George Floyd's death.

We Are the Story – Exhibition #3

***We Who Believe in Freedom* (Quilts by members of WCQN)**

American Swedish Institute, September 10 – November 1, 2020

We Who Believe in Freedom was first presented in 2016 to honor the 55th anniversary of the Freedom Riders, and it represents works by members of WCQN that tell the story of the African American Experience. It is now available online as a virtual exhibition at textilecentermn.org/wearethestory.

We Are the Story – Exhibition #4

***I Wish I Knew How it Feels to be Free* / Quilts by Dorothy Burge (Chicago)**

Textile Center, September 29 – December 24, 2020 & May 18 – 22, 2021

Plymouth Congregational Church, January 5 – April 30, 2021 (virtual exhibition)

Dorothy Burge, a member of WCQN, is a multimedia artist and community activist who is inspired by both historic and current social justice issues. She is one of the strongest voices in Chicago for police accountability and reparations for survivors of police torture.

We Are the Story – Exhibition #5

We Are the Story: The Protest Series / Quilts by Penny Mateer (Pittsburgh)

Weisman Art Museum, October 15, 2020 – May 23, 2021

Penny Mateer, artist/activist, works with textiles and recycled materials. Her art is rooted in quilting and embroidery, traditionally thought of as “women’s work.” Drawing from this rich history of creating functional objects intended to provide warmth and comfort, she chooses fabric as her primary material to establish connection through shared experience and spark discussion around current events. Her social practice centers on a community-made public art project to promote voting.

We Are the Story – Exhibition #6

Freedom Rising: I Am the Story / Quilts by L’Merchie Frazier (Boston)

Minneapolis Institute of Art, January 28 – September 19, 2021

L’Merchie Frazier, a public fiber artist, quilter, historian, innovator, poet and holographer, has served the artistic community for more than 25 years nationally and internationally with visual and performance art residencies in Boston, Brazil, Taiwan, Costa Rica, Africa, France, and Cuba. A public lecturer and community workshop presenter, her spatial and social justice artistic work activates youth and adults in a co-design model that reflects the participants as creative actors and their occupancy in democratizing the socio-economic political landscape.

We Are the Story – Exhibition #7

Sacred Invocations / Quilts by Sylvia Hernandez (Brooklyn)

Textile Center, January 11 – March 15, 2021 & May 18 – 22, 2021

Sylvia Hernandez is a celebrated and self-taught master quilter, and she creates timeless, handcrafted works that address community and human right issues. Sylvia is currently the president of the Quilters of Color Network of NYC, co-president of the Brooklyn Quilters Guild, and she is a member of the WCQN. She teaches at El Puente Academy of Peace and Justice, MS 50 and has worked with AgitArte, a social justice group that has led community educational and art programs in marginalized communities in Puerto Rico and locally.

ABOUT THE WOMEN OF COLOR QUILTERS NETWORK (WCQN)

For African American women quilts have always been at the core of artistic expression, taking form in the social, economic, and spiritual lives of the women who make them. Founded by Carolyn Mazloomi in 1985, WCQN is a non-profit national organization whose mission is to educate, preserve, exhibit, promote, and document quilts made by African Americans. WCQN showcases the work of its members through critically acclaimed traveling exhibitions that tour museums throughout the United States, including the Smithsonian. WCQN has exhibited quilts in Japan, England, South Africa, Italy, and Australia as part of art programs sponsored by the United States Department of State. For more information, visit: wcqn.org.

(MORE)

ABOUT CAROLYN MAZLOOMI

Historian, curator, author, lecturer, artist, mentor, founder, and facilitator — the remarkable and tireless Carolyn Mazloomi has left her mark on many lives. Trained as an aerospace engineer, she turned her sights and efforts in the 1980s to bring the many unrecognized contributions of African American quilt artists to the attention of the American people as well as the international art communities. From the founding of the African-American Quilt Guild of Los Angeles in 1981 to the 1985 founding of the WCQN, Carolyn has been at the forefront of educating the public about the diversity of interpretation, styles, and techniques among African American quilters as well as educating a younger generation of African Americans about their own history through the quilts the WCQN members create.

A major force as an artist in her own right, Carolyn's quilts can be found in private collections around the world as well in distinguished museum collections in the United States. To date, she has published 12 books highlighting African American-made quilts. Her artistic work, as well as her defense of solid research, has disrupted long-standing myths about African American quilts, myths much debated among quilt historians and quilters alike, and thus moved the conversation about African American quilt history forward to more a solid academic footing. For more information, visit: carolynmazloomi.com.

ABOUT TEXTILE CENTER

Textile Center is unique as America's national center for fiber art, with a mission to honor textile traditions, promote excellence and innovation, and inspire widespread participation in fiber arts. The Center's resources include exceptional fiber art exhibitions, an artisan shop, a professional-grade dye lab, a natural dye plant garden, and one of the nation's largest circulating textile libraries open to the public. Textile Center produces more than 200 classes a year for all ages and skill levels through its youth, adult, older adult, and outreach programs. A dynamic hub of fiber activity for more than 25 years, Textile Center brings people together in community to learn, create, share, and be inspired by fiber art. For more information, visit: textilecentermn.org or call 612-436-0464.

WE ARE THE STORY FUNDERS

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Rosemary and David



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