

The stuff of dreams

No chiseled movie stars or wild fantasies in these dream-inspired quilts. There's power! See how one quilter uses skillful textile design to focus awareness on social issues.





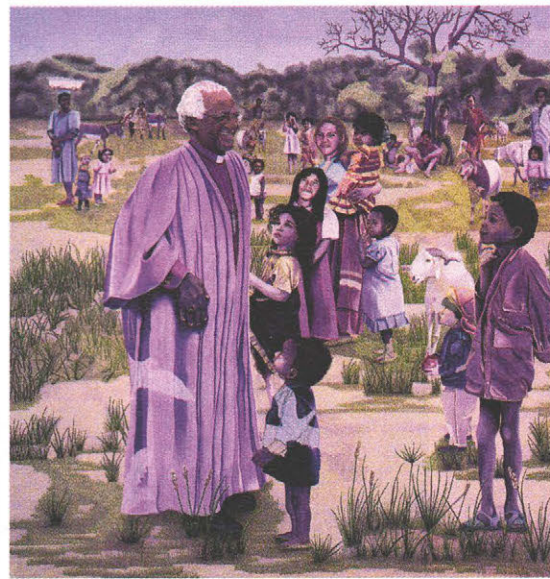
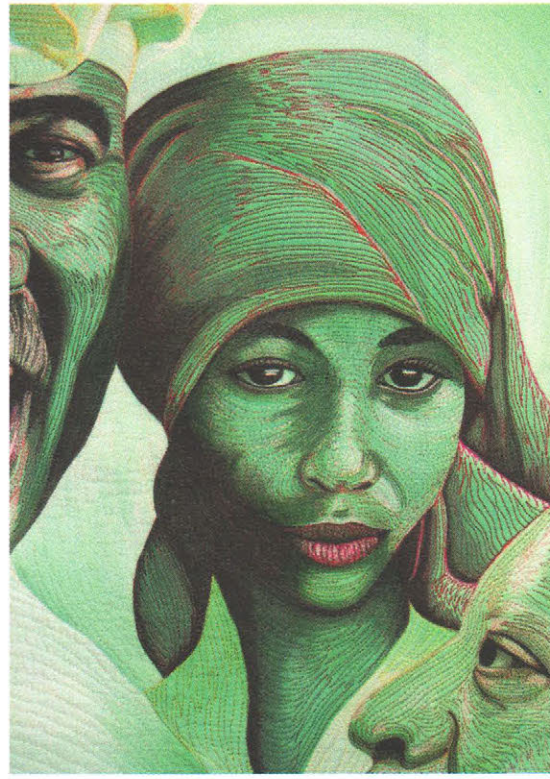
Hollis Chatelain's haunting quilted images begin as urgent dreams in the night. And then the award-winning Hillsborough, NC quilter transforms those dreams into sweeping mega-art quilts often depicting memories of her 12 years spent in Africa and related social issues, such as genocide and global warming. That's some powerful piecing, kids!

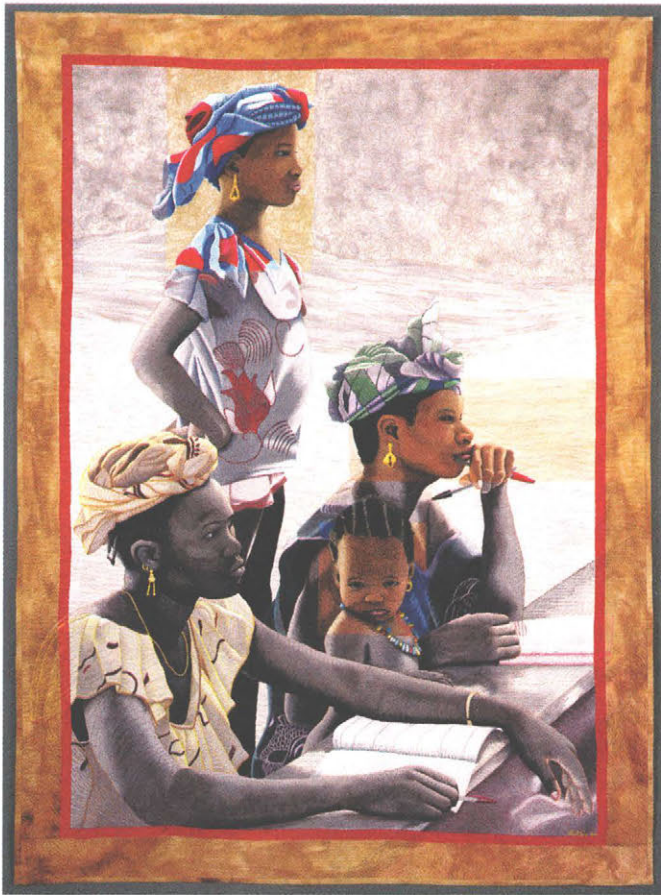
The dreams began in 2000, and were a serious 180 from her usual dream-fare. "These dreams were of statement pieces and they were always monochromatic," says Hollis. She reached for fabric to satisfy her disturbing muse. The results are large quilts of painted cloth and thread about life-altering social issues faced in Africa and around the world: climate change, refugees, poverty,

drought, women's rights, and genocide. (Well, that puts your *Turning Twenty* in its place, doesn't it?)

Hollis' dreams even tell her what colors to use. Many of her pieces are monochromatic, featuring colors revealed in her dreams, but these are not snoozer swatches. Because of Hollis' expert use of dye, paint, and thread, the finished quilts have a can't-believe-it detail in their lifelike images. In fact, viewers often don't realize the quilts are done in multiple shades of just one color.

You've got a brief chance to see these quilts-with-a-conscience. From March 30 to April 14, 10 of Hollis' quilts will be displayed at Duke University's Duke Chapel in a special exhibit called "Hope for Our World." (She is also organizing a traveling exhibit, "Imagine Hope," of 15 pieces that will tour the country at a later date.) "The Duke Chapel is a wonderful setting for quilts this size," says Hollis. "With some of these pieces, I think the fact that they're so large makes them bigger than life and it really seems to have an emotional effect on people," she says.





and visitors to get involved with social—not political—causes. Hollis hopes her quilts will be catalysts, inspiring viewers to reach out to help others.

The exhibit will include the award-winning “Hope for Our World,” which features Archbishop Desmond Tutu. This purple creation won Best of Show at the International Quilt Festival in Houston last year and shows the beloved Tutu surrounded by children of all nationalities.

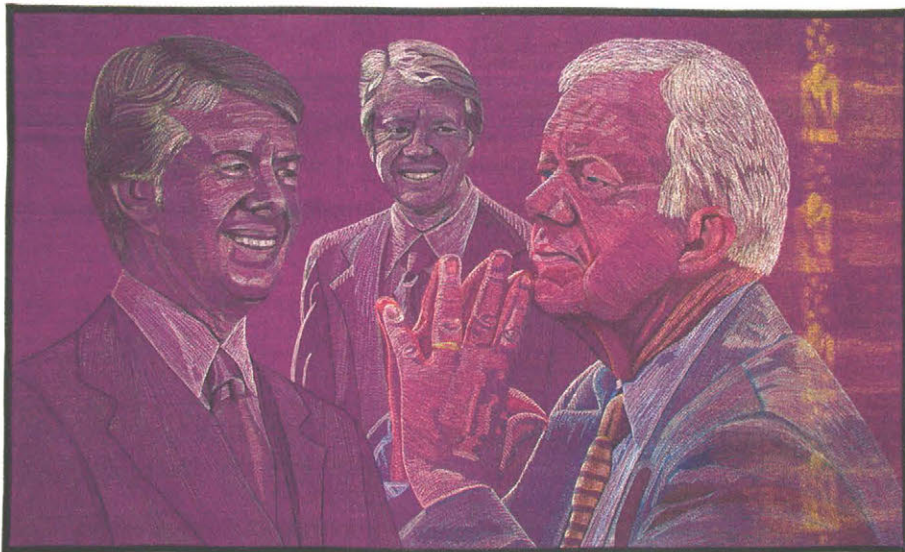
Another quilt in the exhibit, “Precious Water,” tackles the issue of drought and the lack of drinking water in a yellow spectrum, dyed with six values of yellow and quilted with more than 200 colors of thread. The exhibit will also include an as-yet unnamed quilt highlighting the genocide in Darfur—done all in white. “I didn’t even think about making changes with my art,” Hollis says. “When I show my art work, people come up to me afterwards and say, ‘I want to help. How can I get involved?’ They seem to be moved to make changes. I don’t think it was me as much as the art that somehow touched them.”

(Gee, nobody ever said that about a Sunbonnet Sue!)

Quilts included in the Duke Chapel exhibit:

- World of Tuaregs
- Precious World
- Hope for Our World
- The Gift
- Jimmy Carter Ambassador of Peace
- It’s Never Too Late to Learn
- Resident Alien
- Baobab Forest
- Untold Secrets
- Unnamed Darfur Quilt

For more information:
www.imagine-hope.com



In conjunction, Duke will also host a campus-wide Day of Activism to encourage students, staff,

