

## **Artist Profile**

Riché Deianne Richardson

b. May 26, 1971, Montgomery, Alabama

Reside in Ithaca, New York

Academic Employment: Associate professor, Cornell University, Africana Studies and Research Center, 2008- (tenured in 2009); University of California, Davis, English Department, 1998-2008(tenured in 2005); scholar and editor in Africana, African American studies, Southern studies, and gender studies, as well as African American and American literature

n.d. (co-editing with Patricia A. Turner) Portraits of an Artist: The Journey of Riché Richardson's Mixed-Media Art Quilts from Montgomery to Paris to Montgomery

Ph.D. Duke University, American literature, 1998; Certificate, African and African American Studies

B.A. Spelman College, English major, 1993; minors in philosophy and women's studies

## **Artist Website, Blog and Social Media Page**

[www.richerichardson.com](http://www.richerichardson.com); <http://richerichardsonartquilts.blogspot.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Rich%C3%A9-Richardsons-Mixed-Media-Appliqu%C3%A9-Art-Quilts-166330006714171/>

## **Honors and Awards**

2009 Honored with talk, film screening, exhibition and reception attended by 150 guests at the Ambassador's Residence (Craig Stapleton). The U.S. Embassy in France. January 14, 2009. Paris, France

2009 U.S. Department of State Federal Assistance Award for visit to France as a "Cultural Envoy" in Speaker Series. The U.S. Embassy in France. January 10-17, 2009. Paris, France

Visited Paris, France as a "Cultural Envoy" to the U.S. Embassy as a guest in its Speaker Program with a grant under the auspices of the U.S. Department of State. Visit in tandem with the year-long "Un Patchwork de Cultures" exhibition arranged by the Cultural Affairs Office that toured France, which honored the shared history of the U.S. and France, and highlighted Louisiana history, touching on issues such as Hurricane Katrina. Had five quilts displayed at the Mairie du 5e. Events included talks with three groups of high school students, three groups of college students, several gallery talks and film screenings, as well as a dialogue on diversity at the U.S. Embassy.

## **Art Medium**

1992-Present Mixed media appliqué art quilts are handmade, three-dimensional, and incorporate drawing, painting and a range of other intricate design techniques, including architectural elements, to produce an art quilt style that resembles portraiture. Signature project includes "Portraits" and "Portraits II," the basis for continuing experiments in developing a vast array of other art quilt design techniques.

## **Permanent Collections**

"Rosa Parks, Whose 'No' in 1955 Launched the Montgomery Bus Boycott and Was Heard Around the World (Black History Series, Alabama Women Series, and Civil Rights Movement Series). Installed in August, 2013. The Rosa Parks Museum. Troy University. Montgomery, AL.

## **Solo Exhibitions**

n.d. "Portraits: La Finale" (in progress); completing 20 new mixed-media art quilts to build upon the past portraits show for upcoming solo museum exhibition of 80 art quilts

2015 "Portraits II: From Montgomery to Paris: The Appliqué Art Quilts of Riché Deianne Richardson," is dedicated to the memories of her grandparents, Mr. Joe Richardson and Mrs. Emma Lou Jenkins Richardson. This community-based art initiative helped to launch the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Selma-to-Montgomery March and the 60th anniversary year of Montgomery Bus Boycott in Montgomery, Alabama. The show features 30 new art quilts, including 6 larger quilt installations that took on average four years to produce. It also includes the original 19 "Portraits" from 2008, plus a retrospective of earlier works, encompassing a total of 58 quilts and 2 dolls in all. The exhibition includes series such as "Family," "Political," "Hollywood," "Paris," "Delta," "Civil Rights," "Black History," and "Alabama Women," and other embedded series within the family series including "Debutantes," "Wedding," "Education," "Babies," and "Self-Portraits." This exhibition is grounded by the Civil Rights Movement Series featuring figures from the Montgomery Bus Boycott: Rosa Parks, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and E.D. Nixon. Its centerpiece is a deluxe, triangulated triple-quilt panel installation in the "Debutante Series" within the "Family Series" that incorporates light and sound features, including a musical soundtrack that reverberates around the gallery room, and that draws on principles of architecture, engineering and geometry, along with digital media. The Rosa Parks Museum at Troy University, Montgomery, Alabama. January 10-March 27, 2015.

Curator, Daniel Neil, with Georgette Norman, Director, Rosa Parks Museum  
Founder and formerly director of Alabama African American Arts Alliance

Exhibition print photographer and videographer, Daniel Neil, Auburn, Alabama.

2013 Quilt Exhibition in honor of visit of Nobel Laureate Toni Morrison. Hoyt Fuller Room, Africana Studies, Cornell University. Featured five works, including the Toni Morrison Quilt and the Obama quilts. March 7, 2013; organized by administrative staff

2009 The U.S. Ambassador's Residence. Featured three works, including two from "Paris Series" in tandem with talk, reception and film screening, including art quilts

featuring Simone de Beauvoir and Josephine Baker. Also featured a work from “Family” series, “JoAnn and ‘Junior Man.’ January 14, 2009; organized by Géraldine Chouard and Sophie Nadeau.

2008 "Portraits from Montgomery to Paris: Mixed Media Appliqué Art Quilts by Riché Deianne Richardson. Le Début." Includes four inaugural series-"Family," "Paris," "Political" and "Hollywood"-and features three installations. Range of quilts featured in exhibition incorporates themes ranging from education and the debutante tradition in the U.S. South to *Gone with the Wind*, the Civil Rights Movement. Show featured 22 works from quilting repertoire. Rosa Parks Museum at Troy University, Montgomery, Alabama. July-August 2008; extended through September.

Curator, Georgette Norman, Director, Rosa Parks Museum and Library  
Founder and formerly director of Alabama African American Arts Alliance

Exhibition print photographer, Keith Stevenson, Berkeley, California

2011 “Portraits from Montgomery to Paris.” Carol Tatkon Art Gallery. Cornell University. March 28–April 29 2011  
Curator, Laurie Fuller

### **Group Exhibitions**

2016 Wilmington. “The Art of Nonviolence.” Exhibition of 5 works from “Portraits,” including E.D. Nixon, Toni Morrison, W.E.B. DuBois, Mary McLeod Bethune, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Miriam R. Hare Quaker Heritage Center. Wilmington College. Wilmington, Ohio. October, 2016. Curator: Tanya Maus.

2014 “Warmth.” Exhibition includes 12 works, including 5 works from “Portraits,” featuring Michelle Obama, Condoleezza Rice, Frederick Douglass, Phillis Wheatley, and JFK, MLK, and RFK. Eastville Community Historical Society. Sag Harbor, New York. April 1, 2014-July 31, 2014. Curator, Patricia A. Turner. Georgette Grier-Keye, Director, Eastville Community Historical Society

2009 “An Evening with Josephine Baker” featuring Nicholas Leichter Dance and Stephanie Batten Bland. Featured “Josephine Baker: Playing Venus Hot to Trot” as a complement to performances. Cornell University. October 15, 2009. Arranged by Byron Suber.

2009 “From Functional to Fancy: An Eastville Quilt Sampler,” Eastville Heritage House, Sag Harbor, New York. Featured “Josephine Baker: Playing Venus Hot to Trot” along with 13 works by other quilters. July, 2009. Curator: Patricia A. Turner

2009 “Black Debutantes.” The Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Montgomery, Alabama. Exhibition of 20 enlarged photographs, as well as selected art pieces, organized as part of the Southern Writers' Project Festival of Plays in tandem with an event entitled “Tea and Talk” for the debut reading of author/ playwright Pearl Cleage's "The Nacirema Society Requests the Honor of Your Presence at a Celebration of Their First One Hundred Years." Features art quilt from Family and Debutante series entitled “Keri Diamond Smith, Age 17: Debutante Cotillion Program Portrait, 2004.” Also highlights a professional photograph of the artist taken at age 17 by Clifford Hunter during formal presentation as a debutante at the Montgomery Civic Center on April 1, 1989 in the Phi

Delta Kappa Cotillion, as well as the photograph featuring the formal presentation photo of Megan Smith as a debutante in 2006. May 15, 2009. Curator: Soyia Ellison.

2009 "Quilts for Obama." Historical Society of Washington DC. Features 60 quilts to honor presidential inauguration on January 20, 2009. "Obama Time: Always (Congratulations, Mr. President!)," which is also featured on the commemorative poster, on loan February 15-August 15, and originally contracted for display through July 26, 2009. Exhibition went into second encore through September on request of the mayor of Washington, DC and the Congressional Black Caucus. Second quilt added for final encore in September entitled "The Magnificent Michelle Obama, Our First Lady: Strength and Honor are her Clothing (Proverbs 31:25)." Curator: Roland Freeman.

2009 "Un Patchwork de Cultures." Mairie du 5e/City Hall, 5th District, Paris, France. National exhibition sponsored by the Cultural Affairs office at the U.S. Embassy in Paris and designed to honor the shared history of France and the U.S. Five quilts were highlighted to help promote this touring show during its days in Paris, including two from Paris series (Josephine Baker, Simone de Beauvoir), two from Family series ("JoAnn and Junior Man" and "Riché Deianne Richardson" from the Education/Graduation series), and one from political series, "Obama Time." January 7-21, 2009. Curator: Sophie Nadeau; also facilitated by Geraldine Chouard.

2007 Annual Bullroast Gala Show and Sale. Les Beaux Arts. Sacramento, California. Private show designed to highlight the work of several local artists. Featured four works, including "The Ties That Bind," "Another Tie, Too," "The Honeymooners: Celebrating 47 Years," and "Remembering a Dutiful Daughter: Simone de Beauvoir" Sacramento, California; also photographed and interviewed for the Sacramento Observer; October 7, 2007. Curator: Adolphus McGhee

### **Other Art Exhibitions**

2017 Exhibited Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. quilt. Streets Alive! April 30, 2017. Print cards donated and display coordinated by Debra A. Castillo

2017 Reuben A. and Cheryl Casselberry Munday Distinguished Lecture featuring Khalil Gibran Muhammad. Featured Five works at reception, including James Baldwin, Toni Morrison, W.E.B. DuBois, Mary McLeod Bethune, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Africana Studies and Research Center. October 11, 2017.

2016 Black Affinity Group. Brown Brothers Harriman & Co. Featured 10 works from various series. February 22, 2016

1999 Les Belles Artes. Florin Mall. Featured three works, including "My Family Quilt," "JoAnn, School Days," and "Delta Quilt." Sacramento, California. September, 1999.

1995 Duke Memorial Church. Featured two works, including "My Family Quilt" and autobiography art quilt entitled "Destiny's Child: Borrowed Robes." Durham, North Carolina. March 1995.

1995 Women of Color Celebration. Featured two works, including "My Family Quilt" and autobiography art quilt entitled "Destiny's Child: Borrowed Robes." Duke University. Durham, North Carolina. March 1995.

1993 "Feminists in Action: Women's Words, Women's Works." Annual Women's Studies conference. Featured two works, including "My Family Quilt" and autobiography art quilt entitled "Destiny's Child, Borrowed Robes," as well as an amateur bookbinding project featuring "Going Places: The Autobiography of Emma Jenkins Richardson." Duke University. Durham, North Carolina. November 1993.

1993 Albert Manley Student Center. Featured one work, including "Delta quilt" Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Eta Kappa Chapter. Spelman College. Atlanta, Georgia. April 1993.

1987 Soft sculpture doll won prize in art contest at annual convention sponsored by the Alabama Association of Federated Youth Clubs, as part of the Alabama Associate of Federate Women's Club's State Convention. Birmingham, Alabama. Spring 1987.

## **Interviews**

"Rosa Parks @ 100." By Géraldine Chouard and Anne Crémieux. TransAtlantica: A Journal of American Studies. April, 2013

## **Live Radio and Television Interviews**

2015 Interview. Troy University Public Radio-NPR. In Focus. By Carolyn Hutcheson. January 13, 2015

2015 "Quilt Exhibition Opens Ahead of Civil Rights Anniversaries." Today in Alabama. WSFA 12 TV News. January 15, 2015 Video:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZNCa4ypFg3c>

2007 Civil Arts Radio Show. Live radio interview hosted by Milton Bowens (1 hour). March 11, 2007

## **Print News and Media Features**

2015 "Rights Legends Walk Red Carpet in Montgomery." Montgomery Advertiser. March 7, 2015.

2015 "Honoring Malcolm X." Cornell Chronicle. February 18, 2015.

2015 "Quilts Portray Civil Rights Movement, Hollywood, Family." Linda Glaser. Cornell Chronicle. February 18, 2015

2015 "Quilt Exhibition Opens Ahead of Civil Rights Anniversaries." Today in Alabama. WSFA 12 TV News Video  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZNCa4ypFg3c>

2015 "Quilt Exhibition Opens Ahead of Civil Rights Anniversaries." WSFA 12 TV News, January 15, 2015.

2015 Interview. Troy University Public Radio-NPR. In Focus. Carolyn Hutcheson. January 13, 2015

2015 "Quilt Artist Honors Civil Rights, Southern Roots." By Rebecca Burylo. The Montgomery Advertiser. January 11, 2015.

2014 "Quilts Reflect Warmth in Many Ways." By Stephen J. Kotz. The Sag Harbor Express. April 2, 2014

2013 "Rosa Parks @100." CBS News/Atlanta. February 21, 2013

2013 Public television broadcast of Rosa Parks Birthday Celebration at Rosa Parks Museum, including "Rosa Parks @ 100" talk. Trojanvision. Captiol City

- Connection. Channel 95. Multiple television airings beginning in February 2013 to present
2013. "Postal Service Unveils Stamp honoring Parks." Associated Press. The Montgomery Advertiser. Pictured at Rosa Parks stamp unveiling alongside Montgomery postmaster Donald Snipes and Rosa Parks Museum Director Georgette Norman February 5, 2013
- 2013 Interview. Today in Alabama Show. WSFA/NBC Television News. February 4, 2013
- 2013 "Troy University Montgomery to Celebrate Rosa Parks' 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday." By Teri Greene. The Montgomery Advertiser. February 3, 2013
2013. "Cornell Professor Speaking about Rosa Parks Legacy at Cornell, National Museum." Ithaca Times. Rob Montana. February 6, 2013
- 2013 "Professor Lauds Rosa Parks on Centennial. Cornell Chronicle. February 4, 2013
- 2013 News feature on Rosa Parks Stamp Unveiling. WSFA/NBC Television News. February 5, 2013
- 2013 "Troy University and the U.S. Postal Service Launch Rosa Parks' 100th Birthday Celebration With Historic Stamp Unveiling." Black News.com. February, 2013
- 2013 "Rosa Parks Museum to host 100th Birthday Celebration for Rosa Parks. WSFA12CentralMontgomery. January 23, 2013
- 2013 "U.S. POSTAL SERVICE & TROY UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES ROSA PARKS' 100TH B-DAY W/ HISTORIC STAMP" KMOJ Radio 89.9. January 30, 2013
- 2009 Artist's image and quilt featured in national quilting magazine in keeping with Patricia A. Turner's Crafted Lives: Stories and Studies of African American Quilts
- 2009 Feature by Daniel Aloï in Ezra magazine, Cornell University. Summer 2009
- 2009 Mentioned in an article on Patricia A. Turner's Crafted Lives: Stories and Studies of African American Quilters, "New Book Examines Black Quilts from Slavery to the White House," Los Angeles Sentinel, March 25, 2009
- 2009 Mentioned in an article on Crafted Lives, "New UCD Book Examines Black Quilts from Slavery to the White House," The Daily Democrat, Woodland, California. March 13, 2009
- 2009 Mentioned in an article on Crafted Lives, "New UCD Book Examines Black Quilts from Slavery to the White House," UC Davis News and Information, Davis, California. March 12, 2009
- 2009 Mentioned with quilt image at Paris Update: Insider's Weekly Guide to the City of Light. January 21, 2009
- 2009 "Levez la main et dites ouallah!" Bondy Blog interview. January 19, 2009
- 2009 "Quilt, Always." Inauguration Day ParisDailyPhoto feature by Eric Lieu. January 20, 2009
- 2009 Feature Story. "Artist Shares Her Cultural Quilts with Parisians" by Daniel Aloï Cornell Chronicle. January 23 2009
- 2008 Sidebar feature. "Montgomery to Paris" in "Arts and Travel" section of the Montgomery Advertiser, August 17, 2008; exhibition also mentioned daily in "Arts and Events" section.
- 2008 Featured photographically with art quilts and among other quilt artists in Fall 2008 catalog of University Press of Mississippi on page discussing Patricia A. Turner's Crafted Lives: Stories and Studies of African- American Quilters
- 2007 Feature Story: "Professor Pays Tribute to Her Southern Roots" by Beth Curda The Davis Enterprise. February 28, 2007

## **Published Images of Art Work in News Media**

- 2016 Donna Pinnini. James Baldwin quilt. Africana newsletter. Fall, 2017
- 2015 Linda Glaser. "Honoring Malcolm X." Cornell Chronicle. February 18, 2015
- 2015 "Quilt Artist Honors Civil Rights, Southern Roots." By Rebecca Burylo. The Montgomery Advertiser. January 11, 2015.
- 2015 "Quilts Portray Civil Rights Movement, Hollywood, Family." Linda Glaser. Cornell Chronicle. February 18, 2015
2013. "Cornell Professor Speaking about Rosa Parks Legacy at Cornell, National Museum." Ithaca Times. Rob Montana. February 6, 2013.
- 2013 "Professor Lauds Rosa Parks on Centennial. Cornell Chronicle. February 4, 2013
- 2009 "Obama Time: Always" featured in The Daily Democrat, Woodland, California. March 13, 2009
- 2009 "Obama Time: Always" featured in UC Davis News and Information. March 12, 2009
- 2009 "Obama Time: Always" featured in cameo on the front page of the Cornell Chronicle. January 23, 2009, as well as on Cornell University's internet homepage for several days. Photos of four quilts also featured alongside article
- 2009 "Obama Time: Always" featured in Paris Update: Insider's Weekly Guide to the City of Light. January 21, 2009.
- 2009 "Obama Time: Always" featured in ParisDailyPhoto with artist. January 20, 2009.
- 2009 "Obama Time: Always" featured in Bondy Blog. January 19, 2009
- 2009 Artist's image and quilt featured in national quilting magazine in keeping with Patricia A. Turner's Crafted Lives: Stories and Studies of African American Quilts
- 2007 "Photograph of artist holding "The Ties that Bind: JFK, MLK, RFK" taken by Wayne Tilcock featured the front page of the Davis Enterprise, February 28, 2007

## **Published Images of Art Work in Books, Journals and Magazines**

- 2016 Art images of the Barack and Michelle Obama art quilts featured. "You Are Next" Transition: The Magazine of the African Diaspora. 120(June 2016)
- 2015 "Artistically Re-Creating and Re-Imagining Mammy, Rhett and Scarlett." New Approaches to Gone with the Wind. Ed. Andy Crank. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2015
- 2009 Photograph of "The Ties that Bind: JFK, MLK, RFK" taken by Keith Stevenson featured in Patricia A. Turner's Crafted Lives, Stories and Studies of African American Quilters. Artist also featured with this art quilt among photos on the book's cover.
- 2009 Photograph of "Obama Time: Always" taken by Keith Stevenson featured on "Quilts for Obama" commemorative poster. Designed by Roland Freeman. February 2009.
- 2008 Featured photographically with art quilts and among other quilt artists in Fall 2008 catalog of University Press of Mississippi on page discussing Patricia A. Turner's Crafted Lives: Stories and Studies of African- American Quilters
- 2004 Photograph of "The Ties that Bind: JFK, MLK, RFK" taken by Izzy Schwartz featured on back cover of English Department Newsletter. University of California, Davis. May 2004.

## **Catalogs**

2011 Exhibition catalog. "Portraits from Montgomery to Paris." Carol Tatkon Center Art Gallery. Cornell University

2009 Exhibition catalog. Designed by Géraldine Chouard to accompany five quilts displayed in the Paris showing of "Un Patchwork de Cultures" by the U.S. Embassy, which highlights civil rights history as well as the film "A Portrait of the Artist" and Patricia A. Turner's *Crafted Lives*

2008 Exhibition catalog. "Portraits from Montgomery to Paris: Appliqué Quilts by Riché Deianne Richardson." Rosa Parks Museum Gallery and Library, Troy University. Montgomery, Alabama. Features a note from museum director, Georgette Norman, as well as introductory essay by Patricia A. Turner entitled "Home to Montgomery: Riché Richardson's Portraits" and an artist statement.

## **Bibliography of Academic Scholarship Related to Art Projects**

n.d. Portraits of an Artist: The Journey of Riché Richardson's Mixed-Media Art Quilts from Montgomery to Paris to Montgomery

2016 "Artistically Re-Creating and Re-Imagining Mammy, Rhett and Scarlett." New Approaches to Gone with the Wind. Ed. Andy Crank. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press (forthcoming)

2009 Biographical chapter on art quilt work entitled "The Ties That Bind: Riché Richardson" in Patricia A. Turner's book on African American quilts entitled Crafted Lives: Stories and Studies of African-American Quilters (The University Press of Mississippi, 2009). Book documents history of African Americans in the U.S. through quilts. Essay focuses on biography in discussion of issues related to the South and the Civil Rights Movement.

## **Artist's Writings and Criticism on Art**

n.d. "An Artist at the Ambassador's: Notes on Visit to Paris As a Cultural Envoy for the U.S. Embassy" (in progress)

n.d. "Paths to Art." Autobiographical Essay. Written 5/25-5/26/07

2010 "Kara Walker's Old South and New Terrors," NKA: Journal of Contemporary African Art

2009 "Binding Nations through Art Quilts and a Visit to the U.S. Embassy in Paris as a Cultural Envoy," forthcoming in TransAtlantica: American Studies Journal

2007 "Madame Kara Walker: Notre Artiste," TransAtlantica: American Studies Journal

## **Print Photography and Releases** (3100 Art Print Cards Produced and Currently in Circulation)

2015 Special Edition Print Card (250 total) "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: From the Montgomery Bus Boycott to a Dream for America"(Commemorating the Selma-to-Montgomery March @ 50). Photography by Daniel Neil

2013 Special Edition Print Card (1000 total), "Rosa Parks, Whose 'No' in 1955 Launched the Montgomery Bus Boycott and Was Heard Around the World." Dedicated to Georgette Norman. Photography by Frank Williams

2009 Special Edition Print Card (250 total), "Obama Time: Always," in honor of "Un Patchwork de Cultures" and on the occasion of talk and reception at Ambassador's Residence in Paris. Photography by Keith Stevenson

2008 Print card releases 5-8 (1200 total); "Sweet Scarlett? Vivien Leigh Playing Southern Belle," "Playing 'Mammy': Not Hattie McDaniel!", "A Tie, Too?: Malcolm X," and "Riché Deianne Richardson: Graduation Picture at St. Jude Educational Institute of 'The City of St. Jude' (The Last Camping Place for Selma-to-Montgomery Marchers in 1965," Print Card re-releases of 1-4, modified without front name tag (described below). Photography by Keith Stevenson

2007 Print card releases 1-4 (400 total), including "The Ties That Bind: JFK, MLK, RFK," "JoAnn and 'Junior Man': Easter Sunday, Montgomery, Alabama, 1954," "Remembering a Dutiful Daughter: Simone de Beauvoir," (Commemorating 100 Years, 1908-2008) and "Playing Venus Hot to Trot: Josephine Baker" (Commemorating 100 Years, 1906-2006). Distinguished by name banner on front. Photography by Keith Stevenson

## **Film and Documentary Features**

2010 "The Skin Quilt Project." Interviewed and comments highlighted in multiple segments in a documentary that addresses how quilting positively impacts black women's self esteem and counteracts the politics of colorism in black communities. Film on African American quilts directed by Lauren Cross

2008 "Riché Richardson: A Portrait of the Artist." Short film by Anne Crémieux and Géraldine Chouard, 22 min. Features clips from interview with artist in Paris, France, an interview with folklorist Patricia A. Turner, also taped in Paris, as well as the artist touring and responding to historic locations in the city, such as Notre Dame, Paradise Du Fruit, Le Deux Magots, the residence of Thomas Jefferson on the Champs Ellysee, the Paris Opera, and fabric shops and stores in Montmartre. Film broadcast at the Rosa Parks Museum Gallery for duration of exhibition; also aired and screened throughout "Un Patchwork de Cultures" exhibition at Mairie du 5e in Paris (January 7-21, 2009; first shown by the directors in Provence, France in May, 2008 and since screened publicly at a range of locations; special public screenings have included le Musée de la toile de Jouy (September 21, 2008) and the Ambassador's Residence in Paris (January 14, 2009); available in 3 parts on YouTube for viewing.

2007 "Fleshly Obsessions" by Jamon Larry. Addresses African American women's bodies

and topics such as eating disorders. Aired at African American Student Film Festival. June 7, 2007.

### **Gallery Talks and Formal Receptions**

2015 Gallery talk during formal public reception at Rosa Parks Museum Gallery for "Portraits II."

2008 Gallery talk during formal public reception at Rosa Parks Museum Library Gallery for "Portraits" (Primarily sponsored by Alabama State Representative Thad McClammy)

2009 Gallery talk during formal public reception at Mairie du 5e with Embassy officials for "Un Patchwork de Cultures"

### **Public Art Talks and Community Outreach**

2018 "Nonviolent Protest: From Martin Luther King, Jr. to the Middle East." Ithaca Coalition for Unity and Cooperation in the Middle East. Tompkins County Public Library. Ithaca, New York. May 22, 2018

2016 Roundtable. "Black Art Matters: African American Scholar/Artists Creating Home Within the Academy and the Arts." American Studies Association. Denver, Colorado. November 18, 2016

2016 Introduction of Sarah Lewis TED Video, "Embrace the Near Win"; follow-up discussion with Simone Parris. Event coordinated by Brown, Brothers and Harriman Investment Bank. New York, New York. February 22, 2016.

2015 Gallery talk during formal public reception at Rosa Parks Museum Gallery for "Portraits II." January 15, 2015

2013 (Invited speaker for public centennial celebration) "Rosa Parks @ 100." Rosa Parks Museum. Montgomery, Alabama. February 4, 2013.

2012 "Building and Living with a Collection of Southern Folk Art." The Carol Tatkon Art Gallery. Cornell University. April 26, 2012.

2011 "Quilting Black History From The Civil Rights Movement In Montgomery To The Obamas." The Carol Tatkon Art Gallery. Cornell University. April 18, 2011.

2011 "Quilting Black History from Frederick Douglass to Toni Morrison. The College of William and Mary. Exhibited seven works and did Powerpoint slide show and lecture. Organized by Jacqui McLendon. Williamsburg, Virginia. February 24, 2011

2010 "Art and Democracy." Trunk Show, Tompkins County Quilter's Guild. Ithaca, New York. March 9, 2010. Exhibited nine works, did Powerpoint slide show and offered lecture.

2009 "Reflections on Montgomery's Modernism, the Civil Rights Movement and the Paths to a New Southern Art in the U.S. The Ambassador's Residence. Paris, France. January 14, 2009

Five brief gallery talks on art exhibition, along with talks and dialogues with high school and college student groups in Paris as part of itinerary of speaking engagements under the auspices of the U.S. Embassy, including several events in the banlieue. Art-related talks included "Art in Education and My Education as an Artist," "On the Legacy of Rosa Parks, St. Jude Educational Institute and a Youth Mission in Montgomery," "Paris Travels to Montgomery and a Walk by Faith," and "The Civil Rights Movement and the Legacy of Rosa Parks"

2008 Dialogue on quilt art with fourth and fifth graders at E.D. Nixon Elementary School in Montgomery, Alabama in conjunction with "Portraits," arranged by Alabama State Representative Thad McClammy and the E.D. Nixon Foundation. August 20, 2008.

2008 Talk on quilt art in weekly art forum at The Breadloaf School of English. Asheville, North Carolina.  
July 2008.

1999 "Stitching Our Lives Together: Reflections on Autobiographical Quilt-making". African American and African Studies Program. University of California, Davis. February 1999.

## **References**

Available upon request

Art events and selected images are archived in several albums on artist's FaceBook art page and art blog on Internet

Contact information:

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Cornell University  
Ithaca, NY 14850

## Appendix I

### Selected Bibliography on Riché Richardson's Art Quilts

#### Documentary Films

*A Portrait of the Artist: From Montgomery, AL to Paris, FR.* Dir. Anne Crémieux and Géraldine Chouard. ExcuseMyFrench Productions. 2008.  
*The Skin Quilt Project.* Directed and produced by Lauren Cross. 2010.

#### Interviews

Chouard, Géraldine and Anne Crémieux. "Rosa Parks @ 100." *TransAtlantica: A Journal of American Studies*. April, 2013.  
Hutcheson, Carolyn. *In Focus*. Troy University Public Radio-NPR. January 13, 2015  
Nabili, Nadine. "Levez la main et dites ouallah!" *The Bondy Blog*. January 18, 2009

#### Bibliography

##### Books, Catalogs, Magazines, News Features and Journal Essays

Aloi, Daniel. "Artist Shares Her Cultural Quilts with Parisians." *Cornell Chronicle*. January 23, 2009.  
--. "Artist Shares Her Cultural Quilts with Parisians" *Ezra Magazine*. Summer, 2009.  
Associated Press. "Postal Service Unveils Stamp Honoring Parks." *The Montgomery Advertiser*. February 5, 2013.  
Burylo, Rebecca. "Quilt Artist Honors Civil Rights, Southern Roots." *The Montgomery Advertiser*. January 11, 2015.  
Curda, Beth. "Professor Pays Tribute to Her Southern Roots." *The Davis Enterprise*. February 28, 2007.  
Glaser, Linda. "Quilts Portray Civil Rights Movement, Hollywood, Family." *Cornell Chronicle*. February 18, 2015.  
Harper, Brad. "Rights Legends Walk Red Carpet in Montgomery." *Montgomery Advertiser*. March 7, 2015.  
Kotz, Stephen J. "Quilts Reflect Warmth in Many Ways." By Stephen J. Kotz. *The Sag Harbor Express*. April 2, 2014.  
Lieu, Eric. "Quilt, Always." *ParisDailyPhoto*. January 20, 2009.  
Montana, Rob. "Cornell Professor Speaking about Rosa Parks Legacy at Cornell, NationalMuseum." *Ithaca Times*. February 6, 2013.  
Norman, Georgette. Foreword. *Portraits from Montgomery to Paris: Appliqué Quilts by Riché Deianne Richardson*. Rosa Parks Museum. Troy University. Montgomery, Alabama, 2008.  
"Professor Lauds Rosa Parks on Centennial." *Cornell Chronicle*. February 4, 2013.  
Richardson, Riché. "Binding Nations through Art Quilts and a Trip to the U.S. Embassy as a Cultural Envoy." *TransAtlantica: American Studies Journal*. 2 (2009).  
--. Artist Statement. *Portraits from Montgomery to Paris: Appliqué Quilts by Riché Deianne Richardson*. Troy University. Montgomery, Alabama, 2008.  
--. Artist Statement. *Portraits from Montgomery to Paris: Mixed Media Appliqué Art Quilts*. Carol Tatkon Center Art Gallery. Cornell University. Ithaca, New York, 2011.  
--. "Artistically Re-Creating and Re-Imagining Mammy, Rhett and Scarlett." *New Approaches to Gone with the Wind*. Ed. Andy Crank. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press (forthcoming).  
Thrasher, Steven. "Gee's Bend Quilts Bring African American Folk Art to the Met." *The Guardian*. December 10, 2014.  
Turner, Patricia A. *Crafted Lives: Stories and Studies of African-American Quilters*. Jackson: The University Press of Mississippi, 2009.  
--. "Home to Montgomery: Riché Richardson's Portraits." *Portraits from Montgomery to Paris: Appliqué Quilts by Riché Deianne Richardson*. Rosa Parks Museum. Troy University. Montgomery, Alabama, 2008.  
--. "From Lafayette to Barack Obama: Past and Future in Quilt Exhibit." *TransAtlantica: American Studies Journal* 2(2009).  
Turner, Patricia A. and Riché Richardson, ed. *Portraits of an Artist: The Journey of Riché Richardson's Mixed-Media Art Quilts from Montgomery to Paris to Montgomery* (in progress).

## Appendix II

### The “Portraits” Art Quilt Project by Riché Deianne Richardson

Curator: Daniel Neil with Georgette Norman

Riché Richardson, who was born and raised in Montgomery, Alabama, made her first portrait art quilt in 1999 and has been developing this project for the past 15 years. She has been diligent in producing various crafts since her childhood from as early as age nine, when she first began to focus on sewing, crocheting and collecting dolls. She taught herself to knit and also eventually made some soft-sculpture dolls during her teen years. Her beautiful art quilts are often described by people who have seen them on exhibition as quilts unlike any they have ever seen before, as evidenced in the nearly 60 pieces featured here, which also include some of her earliest work.

The distinct signature style of portrait art quilting that she has developed draws on intricate design techniques and incorporates painting and mixed-media to produce hand-stitched, richly detailed, three-dimensional quilts. Her art quilts often unfold as multi-year projects and in some cases have taken several years to develop. With felt providing their foundational fabric and form, her quilting subjects are drawn and painted in a classic style and designed with features such as synthetic hair, eyelashes, and fingernails. They incorporate an eclectic range of materials, including hats, jewelry, shoes, ribbons, orthodontic braces, buttons, safety pins, boas, fruit, beading, flowers, eye glasses, mirrors, and ties, among other items. Her second solo art quilt exhibition, *Portraits II: From Montgomery to Paris: The Appliqué Art Quilts of Riché Deianne Richardson*, pays tribute to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Selma-to-Montgomery March, the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Montgomery Bus Boycott and other anniversaries in Civil Rights Movement history this year. It is dedicated to the memories of her grandparents, Joe Richardson and Emma Lou Jenkins Richardson. This exhibition expands the range of special effects that she incorporates in developing her art quilts and takes her architectural quilting style and the notion of the “built quilt” in some new and quite exciting directions. Thematically speaking, *Portraits II* continues to develop all of the foundational series of her first quilt show, which debuted at Troy University’s Rosa Parks Museum in 2008, and incorporates several more series. The multiple series in which her portrait art quilts are developed include “Family,” “Political,” “Paris,” “Hollywood,” “Black History,” “The Civil Rights Movement,” “African American Literature,” and “Alabama Women,” and new versions of “Daughters of Africa” and “Delta.” In 2013, Richardson served as the invited speaker at the Rosa Parks Museum’s gala 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration of Rosa Parks and donated her quilt in honor of the heroine to the museum, which features this piece in its permanent collection.

The family quilts recall May Day celebrations in Montgomery, Alabama dating back to the 1960s, as well as Easter parades, school programs, and birthday celebrations. They recreate family debutante portraits from the 1970s to the 2000s. In the process, they capture a side of black life, particularly in the U.S. South, less frequently discussed. As curator Georgette Norman describes “Portraits” in the 2008 catalog for the show at Rosa Parks Museum, it “draws on aspects of Montgomery and Civil Rights history, but focuses on family showing the dignity and beauty that always existed . . . Portraits . . . captures in new form family photos and memories, and also treats political and cultural figures from Martin Luther King to Scarlett O’Hara.” The new show is grounded by a Montgomery Bus Boycott Series that features quilts honoring Rosa Parks, E.D. Nixon and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a tribute to the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the historic movement that helps to lead off commemorations in the city of Montgomery in 2015. It features several large installation-style “torso quilts,” including the large triple quilt installation in the debutante series, which is replete with digital media such as light and sound features and also draws on principles of geometry, engineering, and architecture in its development.

The body of quilts from “Portraits” is the subject of the short film by Anne Crémieux and Géraldine Chouard entitled *A Portrait of the Artist* (2008), which was shot on location in Paris, France, and highlighted an interview with the scholar Patricia A. Turner. Pat Turner also discusses the “Portraits”

project in her book *Crafted Lives: Stories and Studies of African American Quilters* (2009). Quilts from "Portraits" are featured in Lauren Cross's film *The Skin Quilt Project* (2010). Richardson's work has been exhibited at the Historical Society of Washington, D.C., the Eastville Community Historical Society in Sag Harbor, New York, the Alabama Shakespeare Festival in Montgomery, Alabama, the Carol Tatkon Center Art Gallery at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, and the Mairie du 5e in Paris. In January of 2009 she was invited to Paris as a "Cultural Envoy" by the U.S. Embassy in France for the opening of its national quilt exhibition, "Un Patchwork de Cultures," under the sponsorship of a grant from the U.S. Department of State in its Speaker Series. On this visit to Paris, she was honored with a talk, reception, exhibition and film screening at the U.S. Ambassador's Residence in the city, an event attended by an audience of 150 people. A book project is currently in development co-edited by Turner and Richardson entitled *Portraits of the Artist: Riché Richardson's Mixed-Media Art Quilts and the Journey from Montgomery to Paris to Montgomery*.

Riché Richardson has been highly productive as an artist, but she is a scholar who primarily devotes her time to her academic writing and research. She earned her B.A. from Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia and her Ph.D. from Duke University. She is currently an associate professor in the Africana Studies and Research Center at Cornell University with interests in African American literature, American literature, Southern studies and gender studies. She spent the first 10 years of her academic career teaching at the University of California, Davis (1998-2008). In 2001, she received a Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship. Her essays have been published in journals such as *American Literature*, *Mississippi Quarterly*, *Forum for Modern Language Studies*, *Black Renaissance/Renaissance Noire*, *TransAtlantica*, the *Southern Quarterly*, *Black Camera*, *NKA*, *Phillis*, and *Technoculture*. Her first book, *Black Masculinity and the U.S. South: From Uncle Tom to Gangsta* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2007), was highlighted by Choice Books among the "Outstanding Academic Titles of 2008," and by Eastern Book Company among the "Outstanding Academic Titles, Humanities, 2008." Her second book examines the U.S. South in relation to black femininity and the national body. Since 2005, she has served as the coeditor of the New Southern Studies book series at the University of Georgia Press, a series that has released 12 books thus far. Most recently, she was invited to join the Delta Research and Educational Foundation's Sister Scholars Advisory Council based in Washington, D.C.