


# Contemporary Quilting

Symbolic Protest and African Influences on the Quilting  
Process



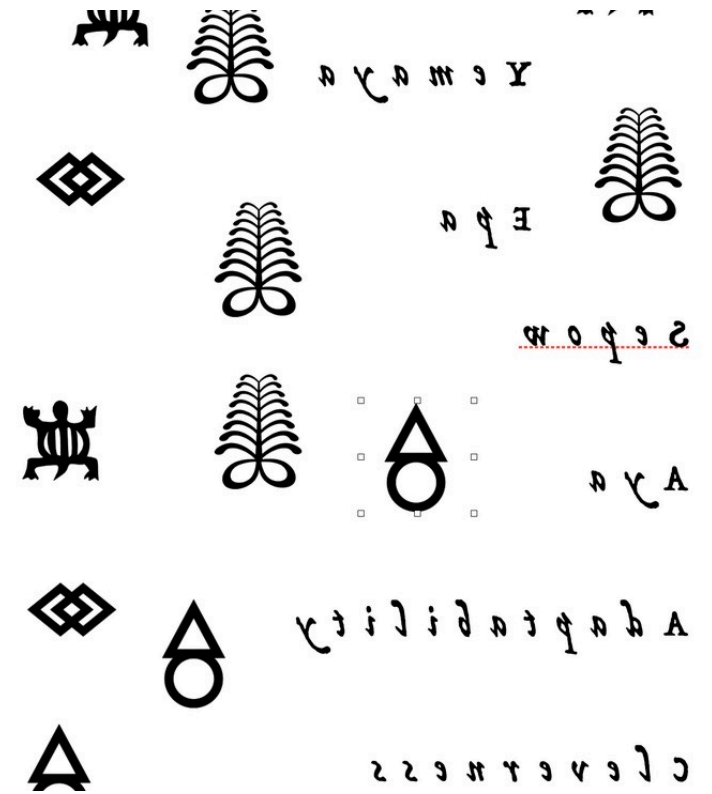
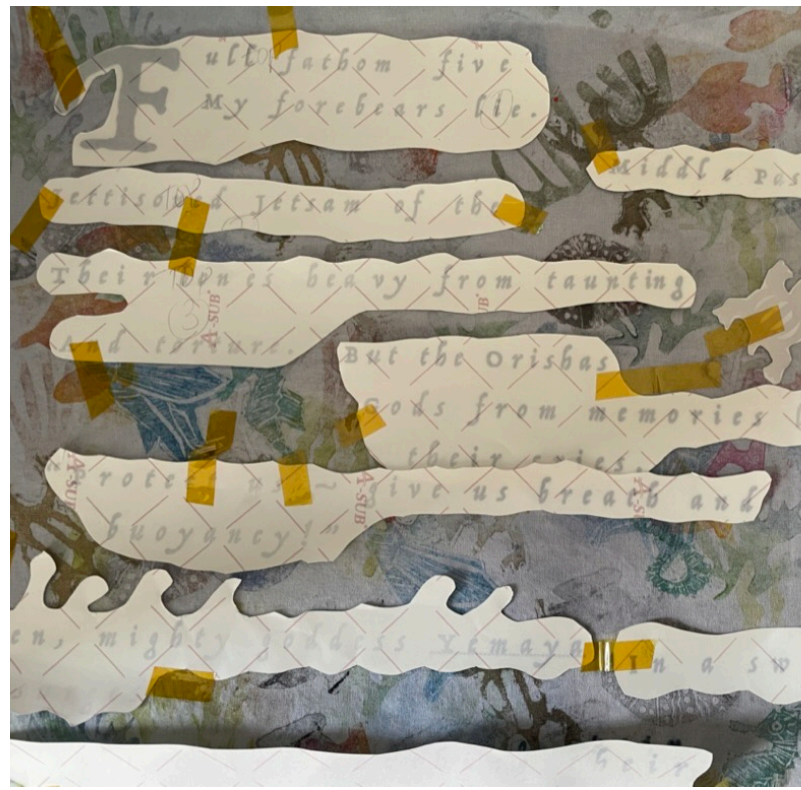
# The Middle Passage

Full Fathom five  
My forebears lie;  
Jettisoned jetsam of the middle passage  
Their bones heavy from taunting and torture

But the Orishas  
Gods from memories lost heard their cries,  
“Protect us, give us breath and buoyancy.”

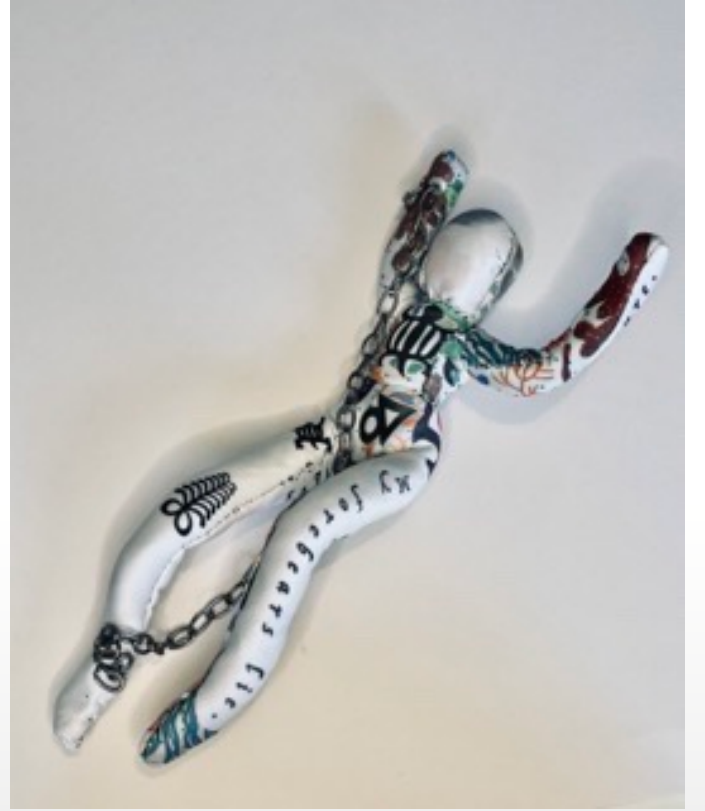
And Goddess Yemaya surges with a swell of  
hope,  
Her salt tears soothing our sorrows and  
hardening our skins

So defiant, we float..rise  
Bringing babbling bubbling laughter  
From our briny bones.

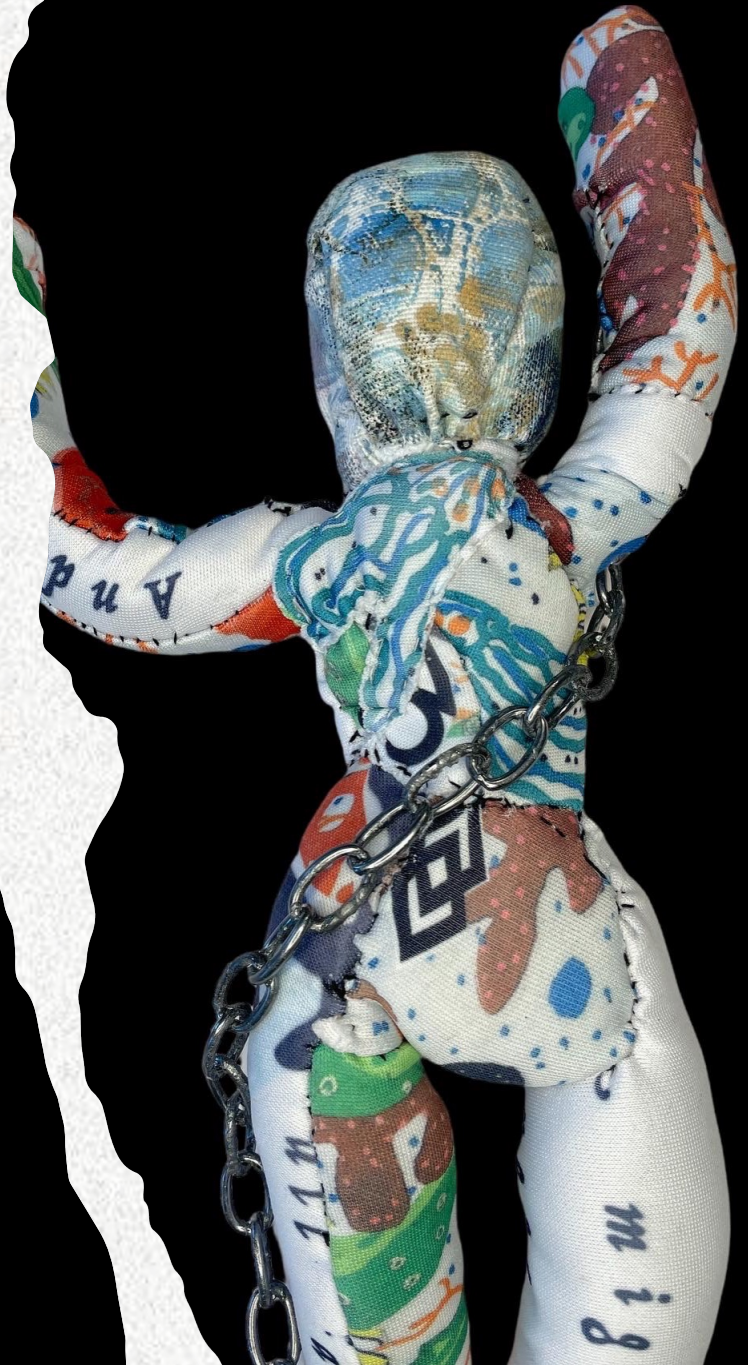


Hand drawn textile pattern and sublimation printing the poem onto cotton substrate





Middle  
Passage  
doll detail





**F** all fathom five  
My forbears lie.

middle passage

Jettisoned Jettam of the  
their bones heavy from taunting  
And torture. But the Orishas

Gods from memories lost, heard  
their cries.

"Protect us - give us breath and  
buoyancy!"

Then, mighty goddess Yemaya in a swell of hope

Her salt tears soothing their  
sorrows and strengthening  
their skins, so...

Defiant we float, rise  
bringing bubbling laughter from  
our briny bones.

Completed quilted  
panel with stamped  
fabric, sublimated  
text, embroidered  
poem and the  
armature doll  
attached

# The 696 Truth Doll

The idea for this piece came about after seeing a news story about the MET police 696 Risk assessment Form. From 2004-2017 Club promoters were asked to provide the MET with names and addresses, demographics and in its early incarnation the skin colour of the potential audience and music genres. The form also requested information on whether there was a DJ or pre-recorded music. This form effectively banned sound systems, Grime and hip-hop artists, reggae, and most forms of dance music from London's club.

The doll is a celebration of the sound system tradition particularly amongst UK Jamaican and Ghanaian musicians. It is an Untold story of prejudice and racism which many are unaware of.



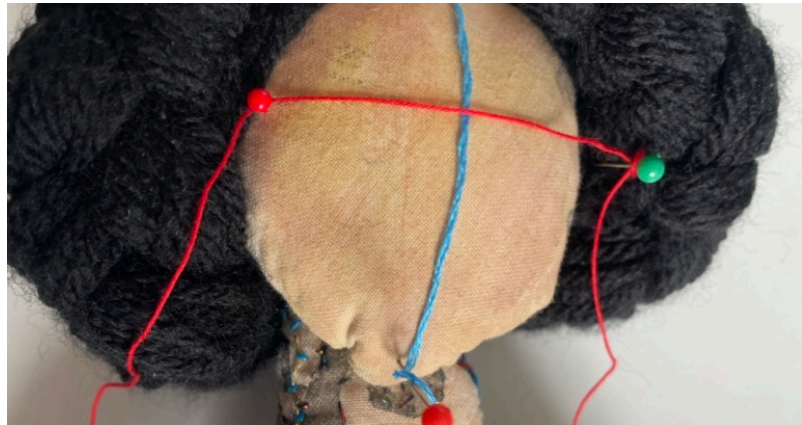
Textile Pattern design using Adinkra Donno, The Drum –symbol of communication and harmony



## The Poem

MCs and DJs  
Chat and rhyme  
The 696 couldn't hold back Grime.

So we sing, So we dance  
And stamp our feet to the DRUM  
And the 696 is finally done!

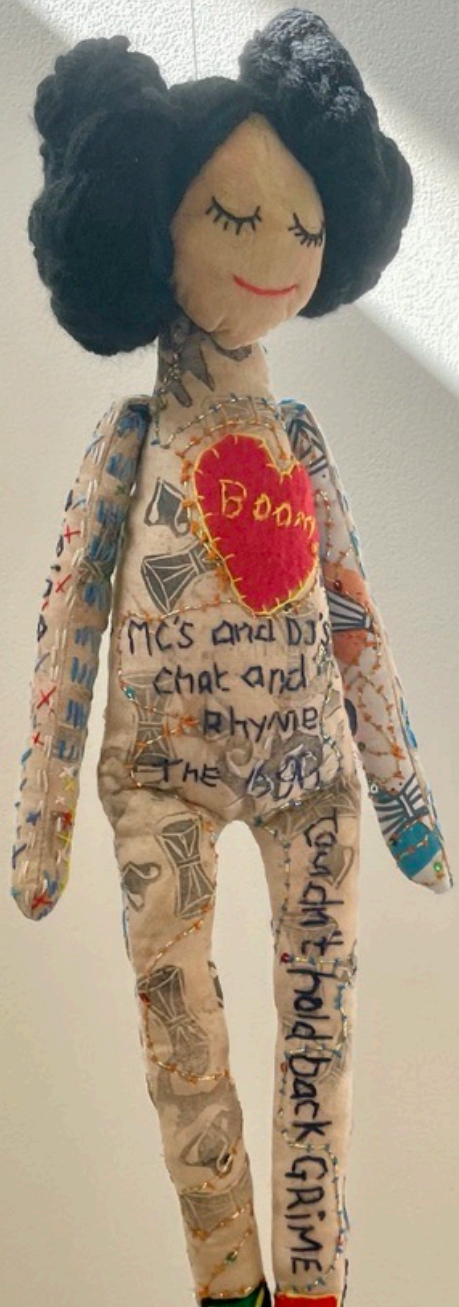


Embroidering & filling the doll  
Doll fabric is stamped with adinkra drum symbols and hand embroidered with blue lines symbolizing the interference of the Police and its negative impact on the Black body



Front and rear of the  
696 Truth Doll





- Kneeling in peaceful protest has a long history for Black Britons. From the emblem of the Abolitionists to Marcus Rashford. This is piece asks why this kneeling still takes place – If we are equal why are we kneeling?

- Image of The Assumption of Victoria. A painting by Arthur Drummond shows kneeling Africans unclothed whilst members of the Empire gather around the Queen





- UK Abolitionists symbol



# Why are we still Kneeling?

Quilted panel with armature doll



ROYAL JUBILEE

WHY ARE WE STILL

1912



FUCKING

KNELLINGS



The Mail ON SUNDAY ma Bridgewater YES

ROYAL JUBILEE

WHY ARE WE STILL

1912



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The Mail ON SUNDAY ma Bridgewater YES



# Unprofessional Queen

If you Google the term “Unprofessional hair” you will find a vast array of images of Black women and their hairstyles . In the US Civil rights campaigners have had to legislate for Black women to wear their hair in its natural form. This panel is rejects the aesthetic that’s discriminates against black women and their hair. It is also a nod to the slang used by drag Artistes who, like many Black women have embraced a plethora of hair styles and reclaimed their own sense of Black beauty.







Rear Fabric has been painted with a comb and acrylic paints then stamped with lino block with acrylic paint



UNPROFESSIONAL QUEEN

