



Quilt Block Assignment
English 1102
Dr. Monica Miller
Final Project Due Date:
Friday, February 10, 5:00pm

Assignment

Quilts have a long history in southern culture: as a material artifact, as an art form, as a frugal, sustainable, and practical way of reusing and recycling worn out materials, as a method of communication, as well as a symbol of southern history and culture itself. Quilts qualify as a form of [self-taught art](#): once known as primitive or outsider art, self-taught art is an umbrella term for art created by those who fall outside of the established art scene—artists such as Howard Finster and St. EOM, whose unique artistic creations often reflect a profound spiritual revelation and intuitive understanding of artistic principles.

For this assignment, you will create a 12”x12” quilt block that illuminates in some way/reflects your understanding of a pair of quotes you will draw from the O’Connor and Walker readings in Unit 1. You should use an O’Connor quote and a Walker quote which seem to speak to each other, and which in some way relate to, reflect, or complicate the course theme of “The Georgia Surreal: Region Without Nostalgia.” Like Finster’s work, the quilt block should include both text and images. The composition should reflect an understanding of principles of visual design that we go over in class. And finally, it should have an implied thesis statement or argument, which you will articulate in your artist’s statement.

Technology

You will be given a 12.5”x12.5” piece of muslin on which to create your quilt block. Your work should fit within a 12”x12” square on the block—the extra fabric around the edges is necessary for a seam allowance, as the class’s blocks will be sewn together into a quilt to be displayed. It should incorporate both text and imagery. Dr. Miller can provide fabric, glue, embellishments, paint, markers, yarn, needle and thread—you will need to let her know of any special materials you will need by **Friday, 2/3**, which will allow her to provide materials by Monday, 2/6. However, the earlier you submit requests for materials, the earlier she will be able to provide them. Basic materials will be available in her office.

You will also submit a written artist’s statement, in which you explain your artifact. This should be a short, formal essay, in which you explain the implied argument or message at the heart of your artifact and the ways in which you express this message. Here is where you can explain your quote choice, the color choices, image choices, visual design, and any symbolism which you are drawing upon for your artifact. Dr. Miller has in her office a number of textual resources on quilt design, which you are encouraged to consult. *WOVENText* has a good explanation of an artist’s statement on pages 698-701; you should use this resource to guide your artist’s statement.

Audience

Your quilt block will be on display at Georgia Tech as well as at a literary tourist destination such as Andalusia, home of Flannery O'Connor, or the Georgia Writer's Museum. Imagine what someone vaguely interested in the region's culture, authors, or quilts might be interested in seeing. Your artist's statement should be written for a general academic audience. In general, you should use Standard American English and its conventions, and cite all of your sources in MLA style in the artist's statement. Outside sources are not necessary, but if you do quote from something (such as the quote you're using in your artifact), you should cite it correctly. (In other words, you should have at least one source in a works cited section of the artist's statement.)

Planning:

General Proposal Due	Tuesday, January 31 (Class time)
Block Mock-Up Due	Thursday, February 2 (Class time)
Artist's Statement Rough Draft Due	Tuesday, February 7 (Class time)
Peer Review Worksheet Due	Tuesday, February 7, 5:00pm
<i>Final Artifact and Reflection Due</i>	<i>Friday, February 10, 5:00pm</i>

Questions to Consider

- ❖ What themes, aspects of the plot, of the characters, the setting, or the historical context are you drawn to?
- ❖ What stories that we've read so far have you had a reaction to? Why?
- ❖ What aspect of Georgia history, culture, or geography are you drawn to?
- ❖ What visual elements—color, images, symmetry—will support your central messages?
- ❖ Are there particular images, animals, plants, geographical formations, which seem emblematic of the course theme?

A successful artifact will:

- ❖ Fit into the 12"x12" space on the quilt block;
- ❖ Incorporate two written quotes from the class texts;
- ❖ Incorporate both written and non-written visual elements;
- ❖ Display an intentional visual design, which you discuss in your artist's statement;
- ❖ Have an ***artist's statement between 1000 and 1200 words in length***, as well as:
 - Have an appropriate header on the first page;
 - Have a descriptive title which is *not* "Artist's Statement";
 - Have an introduction with a clearly stated thesis statement;
 - Consist of paragraphs which support your thesis statement;
 - Consist of paragraphs which contain a clearly stated topic sentence, and only one controlling idea per paragraph

Reflection

You will also submit a short (300-500 word) written reflection about your process of creating this artifact. “Reflecting” in this case means that you’ll respond in writing to a set of prompts or questions that ask you to consider how and why you made the choices you made in completing the assignment. You’ll then save that reflection and return to it later in the semester as you prepare your final portfolio.

Grading

This assignment is worth 10% of your final grade and will be assessed using the Writing and Communication Program’s programmatic rubric. Its focus is on written and visual modes of communication.