

THE ARTS COUNCIL OF
THE NATIONAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PRESENTS
LIFE PIECES TO MASTERPIECES
MY BROTHER'S JOURNEY
FILM SCREENING AND EXHIBITION
PAINTED TEXTILE COLLAGE



*I Need a Brother to Stand **

EXHIBITION OPENING AND RECEPTION
SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2022
3:00 PM - 5:30 PM IN THE GREAT HALL
FREE ADMISSION

EXHIBITION DATES: JUNE 12 - JULY 18, 2022
GALLERY VISITS ARRANGED BY APPOINTMENT
202.363.4900



NATIONAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
3401 NEBRASKA AVE NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20016
WWW.NATIONALCHURCH.ORG | NO ADMISSION CHARGE, PLENTIFUL PARKING

CURATOR'S STATEMENT

The Arts Council of Metropolitan Memorial campus of the National Church is pleased to announce its first “on the wall” exhibit since the end of January 2020. We have a historic partner- LIFE PIECES TO MASTERPIECES. The organization is located in Charles R. Drew Elementary School in Washington’s northeast quadrant. The title *MY BROTHER'S JOURNEY* - documentary and exhibit- illustrate the challenges on the journey and the mutual respect and aid that produce the finished work—the painters and their lives. Soak in the bold colors. Read the moving text that accompanies each work of art. And be prepared to marvel at the results that LIFE PIECES TO MASTERPIECES has produced in *MY BROTHER'S JOURNEY* Yours in the journey.

Marilu Wood, Curator - Carol Schleicher, Consultant

Colors of Power

2021

33.5 x 32 inches

Acrylic-painted textile collage



Yes, it's true that all lives matter, but all lives cannot matter until we agree that **BLACK LIVES MATTER.**

Friendship

2019

32 x 26 inches

Acrylic-painted textile collage



We two Apprentices had a strong disagreement. While doing this painting, we discovered that we are more alike than different. Red on the Shield of Faith represents “Spiritual Principles.” Yellow represents “Language.” When you mix these two colors together, you get orange, which is “Loving.”



MY BROTHER'S JOURNEY

In 1996, an anonymous Black artist from Washington DC's Ward 7 neighborhood decided that Black boys needed a space to express themselves. Life Pieces To Masterpieces (LPTM) was founded on that vision by Mary Brown, a highly regarded advocate for youth, and Ben Johnson, a skilled fundraiser. It is based in northeast DC and serves over 80 boys and young men of color from the city's most marginalized communities.

LPTM's signature art process involves its program participants channeling their life experiences through acrylic-painted scraps of canvas sewn into colorful collages. Older youth serve as mentors to younger peers, guiding them through discussions and preliminary sketches based on their shared experiences. They then work together to paint, cut, and sew scraps of canvas into a cohesive piece, while writing an accompanying story or poem. Each artwork serves as a metaphor for sewing their "life pieces" into "masterpieces."

The artwork created by LPTM's participants portrays a wide range of representations of Black American males from their own unique, diverse perspectives. They have created over 1,500 masterpieces, which have been exhibited at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, the DC Mayor's office, the Kennedy Center, and many more.



Brotherhood

2019

26 x 32 inches

Acrylic-painted textile collage

No matter what happens in life, we will always be brothers. I got your back; you got my back. Brothers for life.



Third Time's the Charm

2019

26 x 32 inches

Acrylic-painted textile collage

An Apprentice kept falling down and down until a young lady came over to help him.



An LPTM Apprentice expresses himself through chalk art.

ABOUT THE WORK

MY BROTHER'S JOURNEY

This series of work, a collection of acrylic-painted textile collages, was created by Black boys from Washington DC's Wards 7 and 8 – specifically, program participants of the DC-based arts organization Life Pieces To Masterpieces (LPTM). The accompanying documentary film featured in the reception focuses on the lives of three of these young men: their struggles, their hopes, their journeys.

The signature style of LPTM's artwork is a unique process known in the program as the "Four Cs" – Connect, Create, Contribute, Celebrate.

To Connect, Apprentices meet in groups to create a story based on their shared life experiences: their challenges, their joys, their triumphs. To Create, the Apprentices collaborate on a sketch of their story. Often the youngest children contribute by painting large pieces of canvas in their chosen colors. These pieces are then cut into shapes that will form the image. Finally, the painted canvas scraps are sewn together by older Apprentices or mentors, into the vibrant textile collage art pieces that LPTM has become known for. To Celebrate, the Apprentices share their work with the world. They do this through gallery exhibitions such as My Brother's Journey, social media, performances, public speaking, and more.

As Apprentices create paintings in LPTM's unique style, they transform their "life pieces" into "masterpieces."

I Need a Brother to Stand

1999

32 x 33 inches

Acrylic-painted textile collage

I need our brothers to stop killing one another.

I need a brother to stand.

I need a brother with a job.

I need a brother to stand.

I need a brother with an education.

I need a brother to stand.

I need a father at home.

I need a brother to stand.

I need our brothers to stop going to jail.

I need a brother to stand.

And for all the brothers who are willing to stand...

The door is always open.



Two LPTM Apprentices work on their sewing skills to create art.

THE ARTS COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

METROPOLITAN’S ARTS PROGRAMS PROMOTE THE AWARENESS THAT “ART IS A GIFT OF BEING AND SERVES AS A SACRED BRIDGE” TO OUR CREATOR, TO OURSELVES, AND TO THE WORLD. THE ARTS REFLECT GOD’S CREATIVITY AROUND US AND RECOGNIZE GOD’S CREATIVITY WITHIN US. MADE IN GOD’S IMAGE, WE ARE CALLED TO FIND AND USE OUR CREATIVE POWERS IN ALL ASPECTS OF LIVING.

THE ARTS COUNCIL GIVES SPECIAL THANKS TO

**ANITA SAMA; PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PUBLICITY
EUGENIA EVANS & KATHY RAWLINGS: RECEPTION
KATHERINE SANCHEZ: PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS AND PROGRAM DESIGN**

THE ARTS COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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