

Constructing Border Quilts

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The Migrant Quilt Project believes in art and activism. The quilt-makers sew quilts out of migrants' discarded clothes found in the desert and embroider them with the names of migrants who died while attempting the journey. Angela Martinez, 2018

looking for justice with thread, pins, needle
and scissors, cutting shirts and dungarees abandoned
out of necessity for the weight of the journey
sharp mountains, miles of windy desert
the owners needing to carry water and food
more than excess clothing and empty *bordados*

the quilt pieced still looks like clothing
so one can read these quilts as covering
the brown limbs of individuals walking
so one can protest the erasure of people who wore them
lament their lives and thirsty feet funneled to America

who walked from poverty
who walked away from injustice
who walked from certain death
to possible death

their full names embroidered
or *desconocido* on material
torn and stained with blood

a little girl's pink dress carefully mended
stitched next to her mother's ripped blouse

a woman leaving her shoes behind and running