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