archiving
THE
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QUILT

ABOUT THE MONUMENT QUILT

The Monument Quilt, a project of Baltimore-based survivor collective FORCE: Upsetting Rape Culture, is a collection of over 3,000 stories created by survivors of sexual and intimate partner violence and our allies, written, painted, and stitched onto red fabric. In the project's 6 active years, our stories literally blanketed highly public, outdoor places to create and demand space to heal, and resist a singular narrative about sexual violence. A photograph of each quilt is archived at app.themonumentquilt.org.

The Monument Quilt is the first memorial to survivors of sexual and intimate partner violence. It began in 2013, and over 6 years, the Quilt was displayed 50 times in 33 cities across the US and in Mexico, including at the US-Mexico border. FORCE partnered with over 100 organizations around the world over the course of the project. Members of the staff collective shaped the vision of the Quilt, guided by our Leadership Team. At the time of the culminating display, the staff collective included Charnell Covert, E Cadoux, Mora Fernández, Hannah Brancato, and Shanti Flagg. Former staff collective members include Saida Agostini, Robin Marquis and Rebecca Nagle.

THE MONUMENT QUILT

force upsetting rape culture

THE QUILT AT THE NATIONAL MALL

After 6 years of organizing, in the [50th and final display] in 2019, the Monument Quilt stretched across the National Mall to spell out *You Are Not Alone* and *No Estás Solx* in a 3-day, 24-hour healing festival. **Over 50,000 people saw the Monument Quilt in person, and hundreds of thousands engaged online.** This was the only time that the Quilt was displayed in its entirety.

INTERNATIONAL IMPACT

In 2014, **FORCE made a partnership with** La Casa Mandarina AC **(LCM),** an itinerant and independent non-profit organization, based in Mexico City, devoted to ending sexual violence through ARTivism. The Monument Quilt **became international** thanks to LCM who partnered with local organizations in Mexico and around the world.

LCM organized 3 displays in Mexico City and co-organized the Mexico-US border display in Ciudad Juárez and El Paso. LCM facilitated more than 20 lectures and 50 workshops in 8 countries and collected quilts from Mexico, Palestine, Bangladesh, India, Honduras, Japan, South Africa, Czech Republic, Indonesia, Thailand, Germany, Argentina, Paraguay, Serbia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Australia, Philippines, Canada + Zimbabwe.

In 2016, the Mexico City Human Rights Commission awarded LCM for their work on prevention of sexual violence through the Monument Quilt.

ARCHIVING THE MONUMENT QUILT

FORCE is now archiving the Monument Quilt, placing each of the 750 blocks in permanent collections around the world, so that these urgent stories from survivors and our allies can continue to be heard and so that the history and legacy of our efforts can be preserved. **FORCE seeks to find a home for every single piece of the Monument Quilt, spreading its expressive power.** The thousands of survivors who told their stories in the more than 3000 quilts, did so between 2013-2019 -- during the MeToo era -- illustrating the role of art in creating this dramatic shift in consciousness.

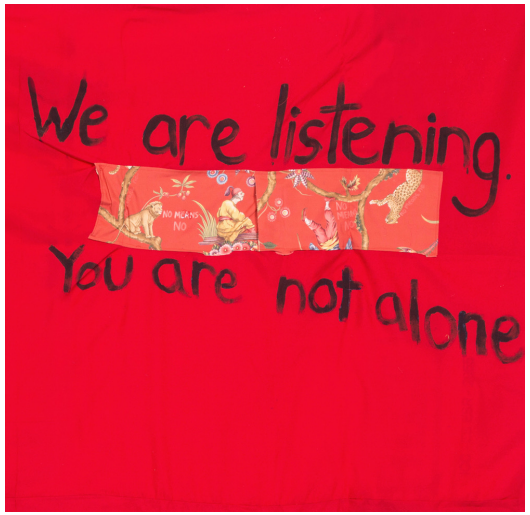
COLLECT A PIECE OF HERSTORY

FORCE is excited to be in touch with you about the potential acquisition of a section of the Monument Quilt! The purpose of this collaboration is to ensure a safe, permanent home for each piece of the Quilt, **to provide opportunities for public viewing, and to keep the power of the project alive and accessible to the world.** FORCE is working to place each of the 750 blocks, in groupings of 10-100, in permanent collections. The location of each block will be documented on a map, and synced with the Monument Quilt app.

FORCE is seeking institutions who: value the role of art in social justice; who are dedicated to anti-racist and anti-oppressive practices; and who value artwork created by the people of all genders who are survivors of sexual and intimate partner violence. **By collecting a section of the Monument Quilt, your institution is ensuring that many generations will witness these survivor's stories.**

- To facilitate this acquisition, the FORCE collective will:

  + Transfer ownership of selected quilt blocks to the institution.
  + Provide a photographic archive, language & printed materials.
  + Provide data about each collected quilt square.
  + Participate in a program at the institution to mark the acquisition.



- FORCE will ask the collecting institution to:

  + Ensure regular exhibition of the Quilt blocks.
  + Properly store and preserve the artwork.
  + Host a program about the Monument Quilt to mark the acquisition or first exhibition.
  + Support the private viewing of Quilt squares when not on view.

Collecting institutions with access to money will also be asked to make a **financial contribution**. The amount is based on the value of the artwork and years of labor that went into creating it, combined with what the institution expresses they are able to afford.

Since the beginning of the archiving process in 2020, sections of the Monument Quilt have been collected by several renowned academic and cultural institutions. **Some of these collectors include: The Baltimore Museum of Art, The Reginald F Lewis Museum of African American History and Culture, University of Maryland Baltimore County, University of North Carolina Greensboro, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, Ohio University, and more!**

ABOUT FORCE

Founded in 2010 by and for survivors, FORCE: upsetting rape culture is an art/activist collective dedicated to constructing a culture of consent. FORCE is an intersectional, LGBTQ-focused, multicultural, pro-black and anti-white supremacist collective, who did our deepest organizing work in Baltimore and Mexico City and has planted seeds globally. During the Monument Quilt's active years, we strove for our visual imagery, language, resources, and organizing strategies to have a local and global impact in our efforts **to end sexual and intimate partner violence by changing social attitudes and connecting these shifts to policy change.** In 2021, for the health of FORCE's Collective and to best serve the community, FORCE ceased active programming. Today, FORCE's efforts are totally focused on the archiving of the Monument Quilt.

force

upsetting rape culture

The Monument Quilt has received national coverage through the Washington Post, the Marshall Project, CNN, MSNBC and Refinery 29, to name a few, and is the recipient of the 2015 Open Society-Baltimore Fellowship, the 2016 Janet and Walter Sondheim Artscape Prize, and a part of the NoVo Foundation's Movement Makers. During our active years, FORCE organized regular opportunities for survivors to gather together, with a focus on leadership development. FORCE is also widely known for a viral spoof of Victoria's Secret promoting consent themed slogans on underwear. In 2013, FORCE tricked the internet into believing that Playboy had released an updated anti-rape party school guide dubbed, "The Ultimate Guide to a Consensual Good Time". We have also received national attention for projecting "RAPE IS RAPE" onto the US Capitol Building and for floating a giant poem written by a survivor in the reflecting pool on the National Mall.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS.

Who can become a Monument Quilt caretaker?

Museums, art and community centers, universities, healing-focused spaces, individuals, and community-connected businesses are warmly invited to inquire about becoming caretakers of pieces of the Monument Quilt. There are responsibilities that come with the decision to take ownership of a piece of the quilt. Please inquire at archiving@themonumentquilt.org to find out if taking care of a Monument Quilt piece is a good match for you!

Can those who submitted quilts get their quilts back?

Yes! Please contact archiving@themonumentquilt.org for information on our return process. Understand that your quilt piece is currently sewed to 3 other pieces as a part of a Monument Quilt block, and there are a few different options for how the return is processed depending on your and the other artists' desires. We charge a fee for the labor associated with processing the return.

What are the responsibilities of a Monument Quilt caretaker?

Any individual or organization that takes ownership of a piece or pieces of the Monument Quilt is becoming the steward of its proper preservation, storage, spiritual respect, and accessibility to members of the public who would like to view it after learning of its location through the Monument Quilt app.

- For more information and to become a part of this historic project, please contact us.

  www.themonumentquilt.org

  archiving@themonumentquilt.org

  FB: /upsettingrapeculture

  IG: @upsettingrapeculture

  TW: @upsettingrape

- Support us: PayPal. Me/shantiflagg1