



The Patchwork Healing Blanket project was conceived and initiated by curator Marietta Bernstorff in Mexico, where she invited numerous female artist friends, curators, educators, healers, writers, designers, journalists, and students from Mexico and the United States to help make this project a reality. The purpose of the project is to unite women around the world and to shed light on the ongoing violence against women, children, and Mother Earth. We believe we need to come together to make a conscious effort to change our societies and to understand the importance of our Mother Earth and all species that live on this planet, especially, the children.

History of women and textiles

For centuries, women have used threads, looms, and needles to make clothing, blankets, quilts, and decorative items to help their families keep warm and bring economic help to their homes. Textiles which are about 100,000 to 500,000 years old, is the oldest form of art in human civilization. Textiles have also been used by women as a means of communication, protest, and activism. Women from all over the worlds have used textiles to tell their personal stories of that of their community as in the case of numerous indigenous villages in North and South America.

The Patchwork Healing Blanket is a nonviolent monumental public art piece made by women from around the world. Each patchwork is sewn together with other pieces and turned into blankets that are meant to heal the soul when seen. Each piece was made by a woman or a child as a way to heal their anger, pain, sadness, or hopelessness towards this violence in the world. We are helping build conversations about the violence we are facing between women around the world as we gather, in person and virtually, to make these patchwork pieces. Women working together on this project can express and dialogue about the violence we are faced with in our communities and countries. Through the healing blankets, we as women are developing ideas to heal the pain, anger, and teach each other about our cultures, as we begin a world conversation to stop this silent pandemic we have neglected for so long!

Journey

On January 2020, we presented the Patchwork Healing Blankets in Mexico City's main public square called the "Zocalo" or Constitution Square (once the ancient ceremonial center of the Aztec capital Tenochtitlan) along with a full day of activities with our host University Metropolitana and the cultural center **Casa del Tiempo**. We are now preparing to travel to universities, cultural centers, and museums, in the United States in 2021 visiting as many towns and cities interested in hosting the traveling exhibition. The patchwork blankets will continue to grow as women worldwide continue to create a cloth piece that voices their concerns against all the violence we are living today on this planet. This is an ongoing public art piece that will continue to grow as long as there is violence towards women, children, and Mother Earth. We will continue to create this monumental public art initiative for all to see.

How to Participate

If you would like to join us, we ask you to adhere to following specifications:

1. Size of piece: 70x70 cm (27.5 x27 inches) being sure to leave the edges free of art for sewing together with other pieces
2. Fabric as your base: Cotton, hemp, bamboo, or wool material is fine (woven). Do not use seeds or natural leaves due to restrictions at border crossings. Do not glue pieces without threading them to make sure they are secure. Your piece must be easy to fold and endure traveling the world and pass through customs! You can use various techniques on cotton canvas to be able to use embroidery, appliqué, paint, printmaking, and photography or write words like poems to express your thoughts and feelings about these issues. You can make one or as many as you like. The curator and team seamstresses in Mexico will help attach all the pieces together to prepare them for the long journey.
3. Write your name, city, state, country, and title (optional) on the back of your piece.
4. Email patchworkhealingblanket2019@gmail.com to register your piece. Send a high-quality picture of your piece with the above information
5. Send \$10-\$20 (sliding scale) to cover the cost of maintaining and shipping the pieces to the different venues (copy of deposit is needed).

If you are interested in participating in this project or want it to come to your city or town, please write to us at patchworkhealingblanket2019@gmail.com. Look for us on Facebook and Instagram to get our updates.

PayPal your registration fee to sandypacheco@earthlink.net or Venmo: @Sandra-Pacheco-2

6. If in US or Canada, you can **mail your piece** to Sandra Pacheco 142 Flying Dutchman Court, Vallejo, CA 94591. If you have a piece that is almost finished, please mail by October 23rd. However, pieces can arrive at any time. Those arriving by the 23rd will be on the next trip to Oaxaca where the pieces are sewn together.

US/Canada Contact: email Sandra M. Pacheco (drsandrapacheco@hotmail.com) with questions

Latin America/Europe Contact: Contact us via email at patchworkhealingblanket2019@gmail.com we will send you the contact in your area.

Join our FB group to see photos and get updates: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/816210978894280>

Current Exhibit: As of August 2020, the quilt is in Los Angeles at SPARC gallery.
<https://sparcinla.org/patchwork/>

Here are links to recent articles:

https://hyperallergic.com/580546/the-patchwork-healing-blanket-sparc/?fbclid=IwAR2gS_rnLlxdeLGjkzNvlweK3lgiP8uwB3Su4xm0eUKazYA8EEjrvnyrz9E

<https://mymodernmet.com/patchwork-healing-blanket/>