

HEATHERGAUDIOFINEART

382 Greenwich Avenue, Greenwich, Connecticut 06830

p. 203.801.9590

heathergaudiofineart.com

CLARA NARTEY

Nartey uses stitching and embroidery thread to create richly colorful and symbolic portraits of African American women. Born and raised in Ghana, Nartey moved to the United States with her husband, her artistic practice arriving in a circuitous manner. After earning her MBA, she worked in finance for several years. As a break from crunching numbers, Nartey explored her creativity with embroidery and stitching, skills she learned from her mother. The economic downturn of 2008 led to a shift in her career, which fortuitously allowed Nartey to delve deep into her artistic investigations with the sewing machine. What began as a creative pastime developed into an original artistic output generated by richly saturated works in thread and fabric. Most recently, Nartey placed several of her works in the collection of Yale University, New Haven.

EDUCATION

MBA, Clarkson University,
MSc., University of Ghana

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

SOLO

- 2024 *Clara Nartey: Everyday Stories*, Ball & Socket Arts, Cheshire, CT
Clara Nartey: Fabric of Identity, Wallace L. Anderson Gallery, Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater, MA
- 2023 *The Joy of Living*, Yale University School of Management, New Haven, CT
- 2022 *The Joy of Living*, Heather Gaudio Fine Art PROJECTS, New Canaan, CT
- 2021 *Windows and Mirrors*, Dana Art Gallery, Wellesley, MA
- 2019 *Drawn with Threads*, Milford Public Library, Milford, CT
- 2016 *Reflections – Stitched Drawings*, Atticus Bookstore & Cafe, New Haven, CT

GROUP

- 2024 *The Space We Exist In*, Curated by Larry Ossei-Mensah, Heather Gaudio Fine Art, Greenwich, CT
Beyond Face Value, Art Cake, Brooklyn, NY
Threads of Life – Portraits and Pets Woven in Fabric, Iowa Quilt Museum, Winterset, IA
- 2023-25 *Art Evolved*, Yellowstone Art Museum, Billings Montana; Lauren Rogers Museum, Laurel, MS; Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton, MA
- 2023 *Where Beauty Resides*, Perspectives Gallery, Ely Center of Contemporary Art, Hamden, CT
Pushing the Surface, Johnson-Humrickhouse Museum, Coshocton, OH
3 Women Expressing the Languages of Color, Charter Oak Cultural Center, Hartford, CT
- 2022-25 *Haven*, International Quilt Festival, Houston, TX
Visions 2022, Visions Museum of Textile Art, San Diego, CA
All Things Being, Crown Gallery, Metro Arts Studios, Bridgeport, CT
Harmony, Broadway Galleries, Alexandria, VA
Haven, (International Quilt Festival, TX, GA, FL, OH, TN, MI, MO, KY, PA)
All Things Being, Crown Gallery, Bridgeport, CT
The Language of Color, Charter Oak Cultural Center, Hartford, CT
Art Quilt Elements 2022, Wayne Art Center, Wayne, PA
Sacred Threads, Floris United Methodist Church, Herndon, VA
Local Color: A Connecticut Welcome, Guildford Art Center, Guildford, CT
- 2021 *Social Fabric – Black History in Fiber Arts*, Morris Museum, Morristown, NJ
The Art of Independence, Galleries at Workspace, Manchester, CT
Form, Not Function, Carnegie Center for Art & History, New Albany, IN
Social Fabric – Black Artistry in Fiber Arts, Morris Museum, Morris, NJ
Pandemic – Life in a Lockdown, International Quilt Festival, Houston, TX

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- 2020 *Gone But Never Forgotten: Remembering Those Lost to Police Brutality*, Textile Museum, Minneapolis, MN
Local Color: Rails, Rivers, Roads, Slater Memorial Museum, Norwich, CT & Windsor Art Center, Windsor, CT
- 2019 *Thread Count*, Hartford Fine Art Gallery, Hartford, CT
- 2018 *Local Color: Inspired by Science*, Windham Textile & History Museum, Willimantic, CT & Windsor Art Center, Windsor, CT & Zahn Gallery, Middlesex, CT
- 2017 *Locally Inspired*, Windham Textile & History Museum, Willimantic, CT
The Council Show - 2017, Indian Hill Country Club, Newington, CT
Local Color: CT Stories, Slater Memorial Museum, Norwich, CT
CT Women Artist Members Juried Show, Art League of New Britain, New Britain, CT
- 2016 *34th Annual New Legacies Contemporary Art Quilts*, Ft. Collins, CO
Local Color: CT Stories, CT Hospice & Guilford Art Center, Guilford, CT
Currents, Brush Art Gallery & Studios, Lowell, MA
- 2015 *Out of The Loop - 2015*, West Hartford Art League, West Hartford, CT
A Show of Hands, Spectrum Gallery, Centerbrook, CT
An Art Quilt Exhibition, Mashpee Chamber of Commerce, Mashpee, Cape Cod, MA
Collage - It's An Adventure, Spectrum Gallery, Centerbrook, CT
The Council Show, Trinity-on-Main Stockman Gallery, New Britain, CT
- 2014 *MODERN SPIN: CONtemporary TEXTiles in an Historic Mill*, Narrows Center for The Arts, Fall River, MA
The Council Show, Cave a Vin Bistro and Gallery, New Haven, CT
Festival Arts Show, Spectrum Gallery, Centerbrook, CT
Hand Dyed, Visions Art Museum, San Diego, CA

SELECTED GRANTS & AWARDS

- 2014 Joan Coderre Award for Painting: Excellence in Color

SELECTED PRESS

- 2023 Guzman, Karen. "Art Exhibition Celebrates Diversity _ The Joy of Living," Yale University
- 2023 Henroid, Hanna, "African Textile Traditions in America: Slavery's Impact on Art", *LOGOS: A Journal of Undergraduate Research*, Vol 15, Missouri State University
- 2023 DeNegre Hanse, Vivika, *Quilting Arts*, Spring 2023
- 2022 Fouquet, Maxime, "Clara Nartey at Heather Gaudio Fine Art, *Contemporary Art Issue*
- 2022 "Featured Artist", *Create!*, Issue 28
- 2022 Palacios, Rachael, "Clara Nartey: The Joy of Living", *Bedford & New Canaan Magazine*, December, 2022
- 2021 Slind-Flor, Victoria, "A SAQA Story in 3 Acts," *Quilt Folk Magazine*, Issue 17
- 2021 Mazloomi, Carolyn, "We Are the Story: Visual Response to Racism," *Paper Moon*
- 2021 "Featured Artist", *Uppercase Magazine*, Issue 51
- 2020 Yuzna, J, "Gone But Never Forgotten: Remembering Those Lost to Police Brutality", ArtForum, web
- Nartey, C, "Reimagining Feminine Beauty Standards", Art Quilting Studio Magazine, Winter
- 2019 Nartey, C, *Drawn with Threads: What A Textile Art Exhibition Can Teach Us About Our Creative Potential*, Thirteen Thirty Press
- Nartey, C, "Local Color: Inspired by Science, A regional exhibit of Studio Art Quilts Associates", *Quilting Arts Magazine*, June/July 2019 | Issue 99
- 2018 SAQA Member Gallery: "Rhyme or Reason", SAQA Journal 2018, Vol 28. No.4
- 2016 34th Annual New Legacies: "Contemporary Art Quilts", Machine Quilting Unlimited, 2016
- "Nartey At Atticus", New Haven Register, Press Release
- 2015 Sider, S, *1000 Quilt Inspirations*, Beverly, MA, Quarry Books, page 90, Print
- Centerbrook's Spectrum Gallery Presents Fiber Show, Middletown Press, Press Release; Online

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PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Studio Art Quilt Associates (SAQA)

Connecticut Women Artists (CWA)

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, CT

Yale University, New Haven, CT