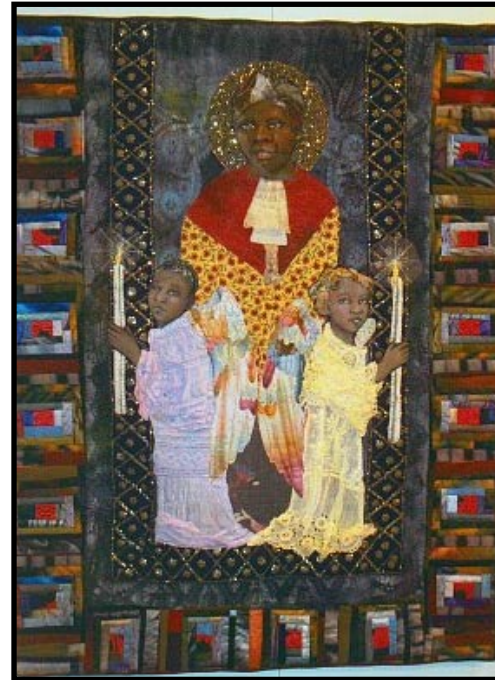


World on his back



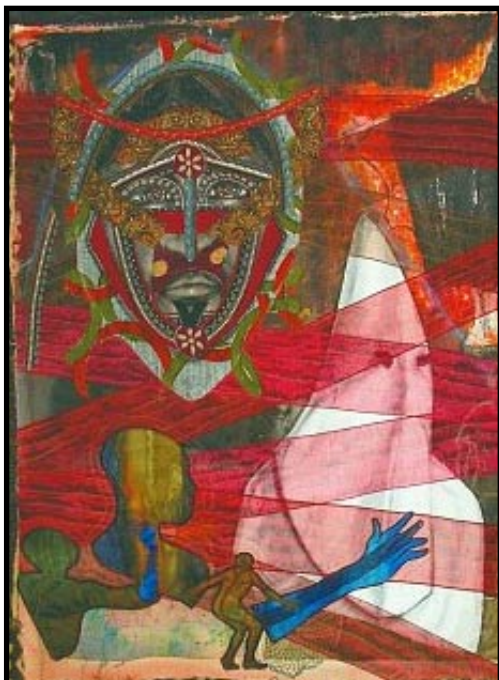
Collared



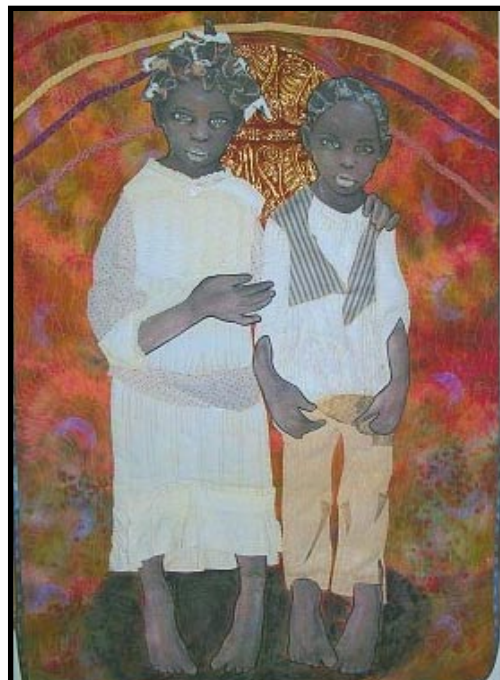
Light a candle in heaven Harriet Tubman



Courage



Raising the hood



Worth it



Ran away



# THREADS OF STRENGTH & FORTITUDE

A series of textiles by artist Penny Sisto, created as a personal reaction to the topic of slavery shown to mark the 2007 bi-centenary of the abolition of the slave trade in the British Empire.

## Slave Ship I (front cover)

Depicts eight slaves chained by their necks head to toe to save cargo space. A diagram of a slave ship cargo-hold is also seen in the background *(On loan from the artist Penny Sisto)*

## World on his back

The back of a slave showing, in Trapunto quilting, the scars of beatings. Within the frame of his back we see the memory of his former life and the outline of Africa. Trapunto quilting is a method of whole cloth quilting with stuffing inserted to form raised shapes. It originated in Italy and was used in the United States about 1770 – 1860. *(On loan from the artist Penny Sisto)*

## Collared

The strong determination in this man's face shows us that in the end he will make good his escape despite the fact that the runaway collar is welded around his neck. The collar has bells on it to alert his pursuers, and spikes to prevent him from running through the undergrowth. The memory of the Maasai collar burns within his robe. The beaded collar reminds him of his former life. He will carve out a future despite the fences in front of him. *(On loan from the artist Penny Sisto)*

## Raising the Hood

The transparent lines of the Underground Railroad criss-cross this quilt. Behind and in front of it we see the legacy of the hood in the power of the African shaman's mask. The worst of it is seen in the dreadful hood of the Ku-klux-klan. On the left a man holds up the clenched fist of black power. We see the shame-filled hood of Abu Ghraib prison, the dog-leashed young Iraqi captive held by the female American G.I. A stark reminder that unless we all work for change, our past will meet our future. *(On loan from Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church, Louisville, Kentucky)*

## Worth It

The young are our future and are worth every sacrifice that we make for them. A young lassie holds her brother securely as he gazes ahead. *(On loan from Ms Lavenna Constant)*

## Light a Candle in Heaven Harriet Tubman

The jewelled gates of heaven are held wide open by two young angels for Harriet Tubman, the woman who ushered so many to freedom. She is an icon, a beacon of hope and a light in our dark world. Harriet Tubman (about 1820-1913) helped liberate many slaves, inspired others to free themselves and worked for the abolition of slavery in the USA. *(On loan from Mr Vernon Broyles, III)*

## Courage

An eagle in her breast shows the spirit that carried her on her long journey from South to North—from Slavery to Freedom. *(On loan from Ms. Carol Tobe)*

## Ran Away

The old farmer lights the way and some of the Underground Railroad travellers carry their tired companions. Tattered lace and linen frames the quilt and shows that this story is not that old, and that this rich and tattered history belongs all of us *(On loan from Dr Curtis and Mrs Pamela Peters)*



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