

ALL SAINTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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GALLERY • ADVENT, 2016

# "QUILTS"

SONYA BERG MENGES

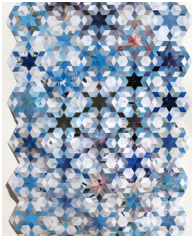
We often take pictures to capture a fleeting moment or a memory. How many times have we photographed a sunset but are disappointed that the picture doesn't do it justice? We print our pictures (or post to social media) so we can hold on to something, even if it is only a temporary glimpse of something real. We also hold on to sentimental objects with the fear that if we let go of the thing, we will lose the memory of the person who made it, or the feelings associated with receiving it. We ultimately long for meaning and wholeness that we cannot create ourselves.

My latest work is a series of decorative quilts made from my collection of film photo prints saved from the past 20 years. These photo quilts, all in the size you would gift a new baby, are about letting go of what we hold dear (objects and memories here) while simultaneously pointing towards a future hope (renewal of life in Jesus). These pieces bring the old photographs into a new order and physical meaning as a quilt, and they point towards the hope and redemption in the Christ child.

During Advent we remember that Jesus, the Son of God, became flesh and came to Earth as a baby. He became physically real, like a photograph you can hold or a quilt that gives warmth, but perfectly whole. Jesus gave up everything, including his life, and will return to redeem all things. In Him we no longer have to chase nostalgia or cling to things around us because he gives us new meaning. In Him we can participate in the renewing of Creation and restoring order. In Him is the healing of our pasts, peace in our present circumstances, and hope in our glorious and physical future.

*Sonya Berg Menges was a long-time member of All Saints and now is a member of Grace + Peace with her husband Austen and daughters Ruthie and Anna. She graduated with her MFA in Studio Art from UT in 2010. Her work has been shown around the country, including Art Palace Gallery in Houston and Tiny Park Gallery in Austin.*

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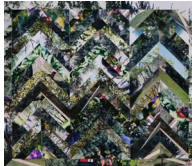
### **STROLLER QUILT: SKY**

Collected photographs, archival tape  
36 x 28 in.  
2016



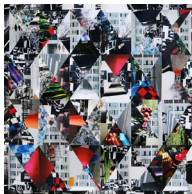
### **RECEIVING BLANKET: COLORADO**

Collected photographs, archival tape  
30 x 24 in.  
2016



### **SECURITY BLANKET: TREES**

Collected photographs, archival tape  
14.25 x 16.5 in.  
2016



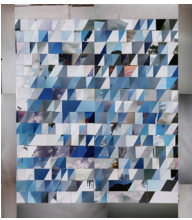
### **PLAYMAT: BLOCKS**

Collected photographs, archival tape  
25 x 25.5 in.  
2016



### **DOLLHOUSE QUILT: FISH**

Collected photographs, archival tape  
9 x 7 in.  
2016



### **LOVEY: RAIN**

Collected photographs, archival tape  
14 x 12.5 in.  
2016



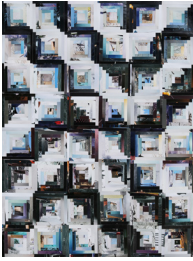
### **TODDLER QUILT: TRAINS**

Collected photographs, archival tape  
61 x 40 in.  
2016



### **SECURITY BLANKET: GEM**

Hand-manipulated Polaroids, archival tape  
14.5 x 21 in.  
2016



**BABY BLANKET: CABIN**

Collected photographs, archival tape  
31 x 41 in.  
2016



**DOLLHOUSE QUILT: STAR 1 - PURPLE**

Collected photographs, archival tape  
3.5 x 3.5 in.  
2016



**DOLLHOUSE QUILT: STAR 2 - WHITE**

Collected photographs, archival tape  
3.5 x 3.5 in.  
2016



**DOLLHOUSE QUILT: STAR 3 - BLUE**

Collected photographs, archival tape  
3.5 x 3.5 in.  
2016

## **QUILTS - WORK LIST**

*\* Price List available upon request*

### **Baby Blanket: Cabin**

Collected photographs, archival tape  
31 x 41 in.  
2016

### **Dollhouse Quilt: Fish**

collected photographs, archival tape  
9 x 7 in.  
2016

### **Dollhouse Quilt: Star 1 - Purple**

collected photographs, archival tape  
3.5 x 3.5 in.  
2016

### **Dollhouse Quilt: Star 2 - White**

collected photographs, archival tape  
3.5 x 3.5 in.  
2016

### **Dollhouse Quilt: Star 3 - Blue**

collected photographs, archival tape  
3.5 x 3.5 in.  
2016

### **Lovey: Rain**

collected photographs, archival tape  
14 x 12.5 in  
2016

### **Playmat: Blocks**

collected photographs, archival tape  
25 x 25.5 in.  
2016

### **Receiving Blanket: Colorado**

collected photographs, archival tape  
30 x 24 in.  
2016

### **Security Blanket: Gem**

Hand-manipulated Polaroids, archival tape  
14.5 x 21 in.  
2016

### **Security Blanket: Trees**

collected photographs, archival tape  
14.25 x 16.5 in  
2016

### **Stroller Quilt: Sky**

collected photographs, archival tape  
36 x 28 in.  
2016

### **Toddler Quilt: Trains**

collected photographs, archival tape  
61 x 40 in.  
2016

# ALLISON EVONNE STREETT SCULPTOR

In my work as an artist, I seek to achieve a balance between the communication of truth, personal expression, and the celebration of beauty. Though an artist's work is and ought to be a result of deep emotional investment and expression, my goal is not expression for its own sake, but the communication of my thoughts and beliefs for the good of others. This communication, in the words of Leo Tolstoy, is "a means of union among men, joining them together in the same feeling, and indispensable for the life and progress toward well-being of individuals and of humanity."

I endeavor to work in the tradition of the Masters of figurative sculpture in a way that is relevant in my contemporary context. Through the common language of the human face and figure, we instinctively recognize and respond to one another's physical and emotional states. It is my desire to make use of this natural affinity, whether through narrative or allegory, capturing what is remarkable in the common and provoking fresh insights into the human condition. Each time I sculpt a figure or portrait I am amazed at the transformation it undergoes, developing from idea, to representation, and finally taking on a unique character of its own. It is my desire to present ideas in ways that minister to those who experience my work, inviting them to retrace this path and arrive at the inspiration that is the foundation of each piece.

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### **PENIEL , BRONZE**

After Jacob wrestled with the angel of Lord, he called the place Peniel because he said, “I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved” (Genesis 32:30). Several years ago I read a memoir by Madeleine L'Engle in which she talks about Jacob's battle with the angel. She writes that Jacob was marked forever by his encounter with God, and that the same should be true of all believers. This piece became a sort of icon to me; as I created it I meditated on what it means to be marked by Christ.



### **BOUND , BRONZE**

Inscribed in Greek on the back of this statue are the words of Romans 7:24b, the translation of which is, “Who will save me from this body of sin and death?” Here a female figure is draped in funerary clothes, representing man's spiritual condition before he is called by the Holy Spirit to new life in Jesus Christ.



### **BESIDE STILL WATERS , BRONZE**

This piece is inspired by the 23rd Psalm, and is meant to communicate the contentment, security, and peace that comes from being aware of the faithfulness of God.





### **WARTIME PIETA: SUDAN , BRONZE**

Utilizing the motif of the Pieta, which traditionally shows the Virgin Mary holding her son, Jesus, after he has been taken down from the cross, this piece depicts a Sudanese woman holding her son, dead as a result of the war and genocide in their country. I replaced Mary and Jesus in the sculpture because, as Jesus says in Matthew 25:35-45, "as you did to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me." I hope to encourage us all to look beyond the comforts of our own lives and consider the suffering being endured by our brothers and sisters around the world.



### **DAILY BREAD, BRONZE**

This sculpture is one of my most explicitly Christian pieces, and a very personal one. The composition changed several times. At first I had his head down and his arms raised higher, hands apart. Gradually the pose you see now emerged. This is the first in what I hope to be a series on the Lord's Prayer, and it is based on the familiar first line, "Give us this day our daily bread." These words acknowledge that we depend on God for even our most basic needs. I wanted the figure's pose to show humility and dependence; but his gaze is up because he is confident that God will faithfully provide. Beyond physical bread, I also wanted to call to mind the spiritual nourishment that we receive through the Eucharist, so the position of the hands echoes the way our hands are held when we are receiving the bread for the Lord's Supper.

## **ALLISON STRETT SCULPTURES - PRICE LIST\***

### **Beside Still Waters**

13W x 9D x 10H

bronze 15

\$2,500

### **Bound**

11W x 4.5D x 3H

bronze 20

\$1,700

### **Wartime Pieta**

11W x 8.5D x 5H

bronze 30

\$2,500

### **Peniel (Jacob)**

8.5W x 9D x 16.5H

bronze 30

\$3,000

### **Daily Bread**

3.25W x 8.25D x 4.5H

bronze 50

\$1,200

\*Shipping and tax are additional. Casts are typically ready in 8-12 weeks.

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**ALL SAINTS PRESBYTERIAN**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

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