

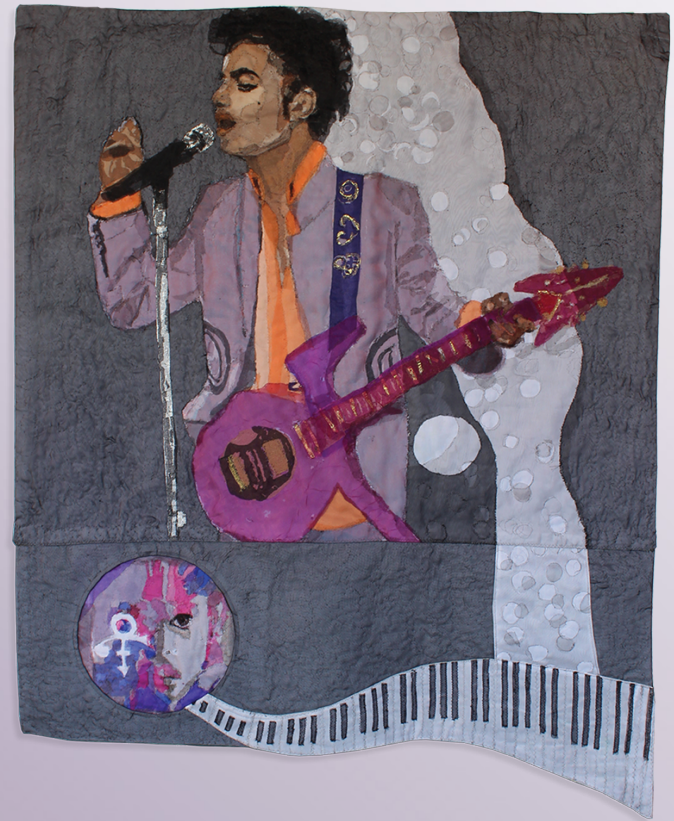
# Commemorating His Purple Reign: A Textural Tribute to Prince

## Textile Center

Joan Mondale Gallery, March 9 – April 29, 2017

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dr. Carolyn Mazloomi, Juror



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As the first anniversary neared of the death of one of Minnesota's most famous sons, Textile Center presented *Commemorating His Purple Reign: A Textural Tribute to Prince*. Juried by Dr. Carolyn Mazloomi, this exhibit featured works by 25 quilters from around the nation, including members of The Women of Color Quilters Network.

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Front Cover: *When Doves Cry* by Carolyn Crump; *Distelfunk* by Misty M. Cole; Detail from *Highlights of Prince* by Viola Burley Leak; Detail from *In Honor of Prince* by Betsy Shannon; Detail from *A Prince for All Seasons* by Gwendolyn Aquí-Brooks  
Inside Cover: *Violets and Purple* by Mayumi Takahashi; *Nothing Compares to You!!!* by L'Merchie Frazier  
Back Cover: Joan Mondale Gallery at Textile Center

Design & Photography by Karl Reichert, Textile Center Executive Director

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# Introduction by Dr. Carolyn Mazloomi

Without denying the relevance or the importance of tradition, this is a new era for quilting – and quilts are being viewed in a completely new light.

Textile artists are producing amazing art quilts that beautifully expand our understanding of what a quilt really is. The quilt is one of the most versatile objects in American art history. I have long said, “Quilts have jumped off the bed, onto the wall, and are now seen as objects of art.”

Art quilts are not intended as functional bed coverings, and this means they can be any size. They are meant to be hung on a wall and viewed like a painting. The quilts in *Commemorating His Purple Reign: A Textural Tribute to Prince* best represent the many varied elements of creative ideas and techniques that have brought quilting out of the sphere of functional domestic crafts to stand alongside the more universally recognized art forms, such as painting and sculpture, as a valid means of artistic expression. The imagination and ingenuity in the quilt community is extraordinary.

The selected works were chosen based on strong composition, color, and construction technique. In addition, the works had to speak to the life, spirit, and music of Prince. The variety of work submitted was impressive and didn't disappoint. An amazing diversity of techniques were used to make the works, including extensive beading, felting, dyeing, painting, knitting, weaving, fiber manipulation, digital photo-manipulation, printing, and the list goes on and on.



*Dr. Carolyn Mazloomi*

Prince's impact spans over so many aspects of our culture: from music, to fashion, to that legendary shade he could throw with a mere glance of his eyes. These elements of creative aptitude, meshed over the course of his life, made his every movement worthy of telling his story in cloth.

The legacy of Prince is so immense. He will be remembered for his music; however, there was so much more to him than his music. Many did not know that Prince was a caring and generous activist and philanthropist who championed causes that bettered the country and the world.

One of the most interesting quilts in the exhibit is *Prince ...the Quiet Philanthropist* by Marjorie Diggs Freeman (Durham, NC). The quilt has symbols of many of the charities and causes Prince supported. He funded educational programs, fed the hungry, sheltered the homeless, paid medical bills, aided animal shelters, supported medical research, and was an activist against racial injustice and intolerance. Prince never once laid claim to any of his good deeds.

Some artists chose to celebrate their favorite song by Prince. *When Doves Cry* epitomizes the unique sound of Prince, and was one of the most popular recordings of the 1980s. Misty Cole (Bowie, MD) and Carolyn Crump (Dallas, TX) commemorated this song in their quilts. Cole's quilt, *Distelfunk*, inspired by Pennsylvania Dutch Fracture, depicts two doves crying purple tears. The doves sit on either side of Prince's guitar, which has been transformed into a Tree of Life, with bleeding hearts on each side. Crump's quilt, *When Doves Cry*, constructed of re-purposed fabrics, shows seven fabricated three-dimensional doves encircling images of Prince's face.

Known to be a musical genius, Prince could play a multitude of instruments. The quilts, *Purple Rain No More* by Selena Sullivan (Mint Hill, NC) and *A Man of Music* by Margaret Fetterhoff (Spring, TX), celebrate his musical aptitude with images of some of the instruments he mastered, such as the piano, bass guitar, clarinet, drums, and trumpet, which were appliquéd onto the surface of their quilts.

The color purple is synonymous with Prince since 1984 when he starred in the film *Purple Rain*. He won an Oscar® for the Best Original Song Score for the song by the same name. The movie visualized Prince at his flamboyant best.

Ife Felix (New York, NY) created her quilt, *Purple Rain*, using flowing strips of silk and cotton fabric in various

shades of purple, all resting on a hand-dyed purple cotton background. She anchored the quilt with appliquéd symbols of Prince's moniker. In fact, most of the quilts in the exhibit use various shades of purple fabric in the composition of their works. No man could rock a ruffled blouse, bell-bottom pants, or a set of heels like Prince.



*"Prince ... The Quiet Philanthropist"*  
by Marjorie Diggs Freeman, Durham, N.C.

Prince's fashion was a notable aspect of his character, and he crafted some of the most unforgettable ensembles on the stage. His clothing choices were a natural expression of the freedom he sought to communicate through his music.

Marliss Borenz Jensen (Minneapolis, MN) custom-dyed fabrics for outfits worn not only by Prince, but by his dancers and band members as well. Her quilt, *Fallinlove2Nite*, is made of actual sample swatches she saved while working for Prince for over a decade. At the top of her quilt is an image of Paisley Park, the home and recording studio of Prince.

On behalf of Textile Center, I would like to thank the participating quilt artists who used the language of cloth to celebrate the life of Prince. Your continual search for meaning and insight into yourselves, your icons, and your place in the universe through the creation of fiber art is exhilarating. Exhibiting your work is a wonderful acknowledgement of the thriving community of art quilters around the country. Textile Center will continue to invite viewers to hear your voices through the quilts you create.

Prince ... his legacy lives on in music and in the quilts in *Commemorating His Purple Reign: A Textural Tribute to Prince*.

### **About Dr. Carolyn Mazloomi**

Historian, curator, author, lecturer, artist, mentor, founder, and facilitator, Dr. Carolyn Mazloomi is the founder of The Women of Color Quilters Network.

In 2014 Dr. Mazloomi was named a National Heritage Fellow by the National Endowment for the Arts, the

highest award given in the United States for traditional arts. She was also the 2016 inductee to the Quilters Hall of Fame Museum. Dr. Mazloomi is also a member of Textile Center's National Artist Advisory Council.



*"Fallinlove2Nite"*

by Marliss Borenz Jensen, Minneapolis, MN



## When Doves Cry

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Carolyn Crump

Houston, TX  
2017

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46" x 40"

Cotton poly fabric, thread,  
crystal, felt

Quilt sublimation,  
hand dyeing of birds

# In Honor of Prince

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**Betsy Shannon**

Minneapolis, MN  
2016

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41.5" x 28"

Commercial fabric, threads,  
Caran d'Ache watercolor  
pencils, fabric paint

Free motion quilting,  
free hand pencil illustration,  
fabric painting, fusing





## Highlights of Prince

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**Viola Burley Leak**

Washington, DC  
2016

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43" x 40"

Cotton, silk, metallic lamé,  
lace, sequin braid

Appliqué

# Distelfunk

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Misty M. Cole

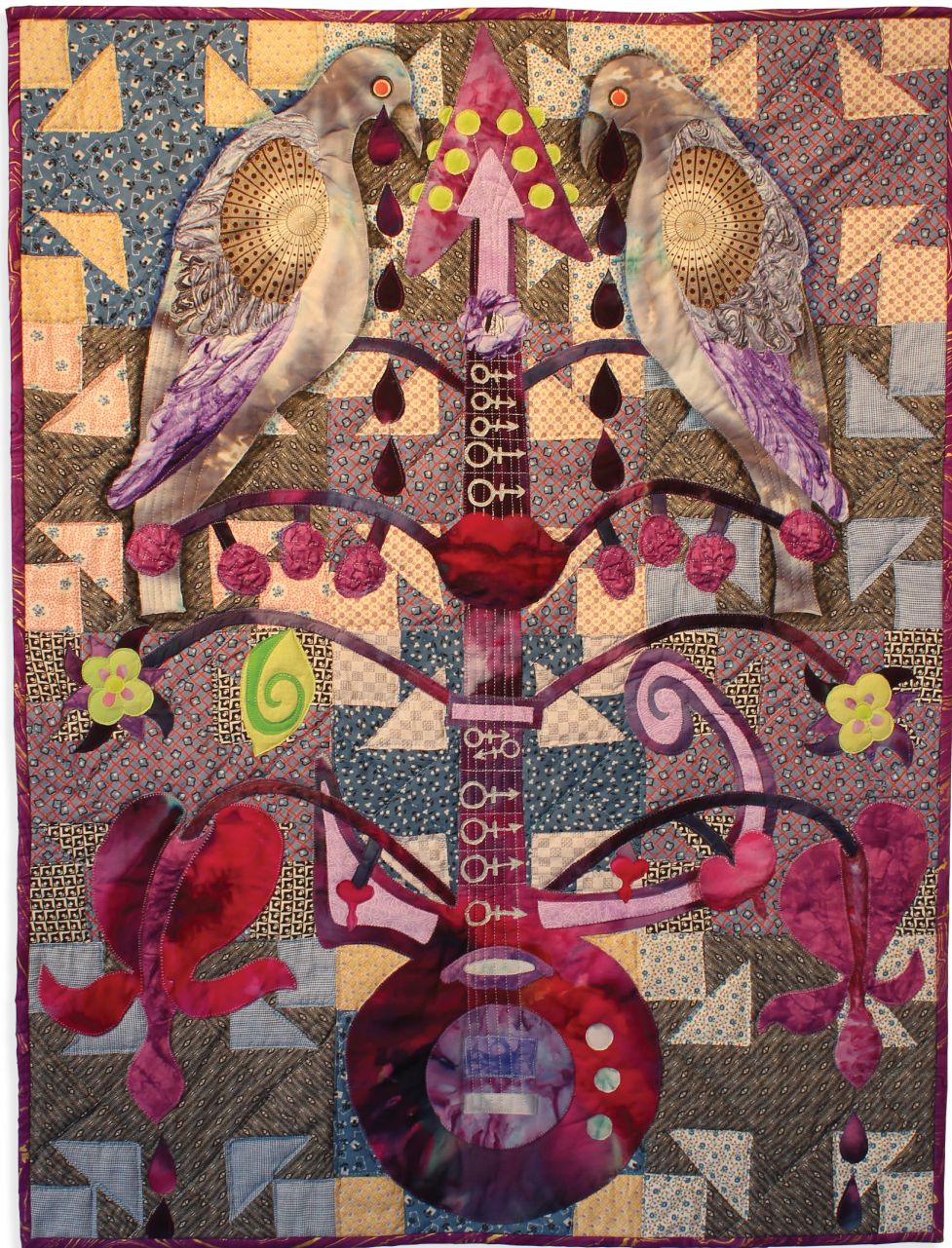
Bowie, MD  
2016

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39" x 29"

Vintage quilt blocks, commercial  
and hand dyed cotton, Tsukineko  
fabric markers

Fusible appliqué, Texture Magic,  
fabric marking, domestic  
machine quilting





## Funk in Purple, A Tribute to Prince

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**Brenetta Ward**

Seattle, WA  
2017

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33" x 28"

African batiks, silks, domestic  
and imported cottons, cowry  
shells, buttons, beads,  
lace, sequins

Hand and machine quilting

# All the Pretty Women: One Last Party

Marion Coleman

Castro Valley, CA  
2016

56" x 45"

Cotton, silk, polyester, found dress, pearl cotton thread, metallic thread, variegated polyester threads

Random piecing, fused appliqué, hand appliqué, thread writing, free motion machine stitching



# Our Little Prince: His Royal Purple Highness

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Charlotte T. Hunter

Cincinnati, OH  
2017

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44" x 43"

Cotton fabric, ribbons,  
buttons, beads, rickrack,  
embroidered appliqué

Machine quilting,  
hand beading



# Fallinlove2Nite

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**Marliss Borenz Jensen**

Minneapolis, MN  
2016

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46.5" x 46.5"

Original Prince Rogers Nelson costume shop fabric swatches from dye test samples and fabric yardage that I dyed for Prince and his band members, 1985-1996 (silk, cotton, nylon, wool, cashmere, acetate); white cotton moleskin imported from England, fiber-reactive dyed purple; machine quilting thread; Pellon Wonder-Under fusible interfacing; painted Masonite board with PRN fabric swatch inserts; wood frame

Fabric swatches fused to background moleskin, machine quilting





## Once Upon A Time

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Ora Clay

Oakland, CA  
2016

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31 " x 29.5"

Cotton, silk, linen, tulle, hand dyed  
fabrics, cotton threads,  
metallic threads

Fused raw edge appliqué, hand  
stitching, machine stitching, quilting

# Violets and Purple

---

Mayumi Takahashi

Falcon Heights, MN  
2016

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32" x 30"

Hand dyed wool, wool yarn,  
synthetic yarn, cotton fabric,  
synthetic fabric, metal beads, glass  
beads, acrylic beads, sequins, fake  
leather, metal studs, wool roving,  
vintage millinery flowers, tulle lace,  
pipe cleaner, monk's cloth, burlap,  
ribbon tape, felt tape

Hand quilting, rug hooking,  
crochet, stitching, needle felting,  
embroidery





## Purple Rain

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**Ife Felix**

New York, NY  
2016

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43" x 40"

Cotton, silk, metallic lamé, lace,  
sequin braid

Appliqué

# Purple Rain No More

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Selena A. Sullivan

Mint Hill, NC  
2017

---

44" x 44"

Cotton, silk, synthetics, thread,  
buttons, beads

Hand appliqué, hand and  
machine quilting





## The Artist Inspired by Prince

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**Dorothy I. Burge**

Chicago, IL  
2017

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48" x 56.5"

Cottons, batiks, velvet, West African  
mud cloth, embroidery threads,  
textile paints

Machine appliqué, hand stitching,  
fabric painting, free motion quilting

# Nothing Compares to You!!!

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L'Merchie Frazier

Dorchester, MA  
2017

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46" x 36"

Nylon, cotton fiber

Quilt assemblage





# Unexpected Colors to Enliven All of Us

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Ed Johnetta Miller

Hartford, CT  
2016

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40" x 36"

Velvet, silk, chiffon, photo transfer,  
embroidery, cotton, linen blend,  
hand dyed cotton,  
silver embellishments

Improvitational machine piecing,  
quilting





## A Man of Music

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**Margaret (Peggy)  
Fetterhoff**

Spring, TX  
2016

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33" x 26"

Cotton fabric, silk thread,  
70/30 cotton/poly batting

Piecing, home machine quilting,  
home machine thread painting,  
machine appliqué, inking

# Prince Out!

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Dr. Denise M.  
Campbell  
Milton, GA  
2016

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47.5" x 58"

Cotton fabric, cotton thread,  
cotton batting

Machine appliqué and quilting





## Purple Paisley for Prince

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Sylvia Hernandez

Brooklyn, NY  
2016

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56" x 52"

Cotton fabric, thread

Raw edge appliqué,  
machine quilting

# Paisley Park Under a Cherry Moon

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Trish Williams

Peoria, IL  
2016

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45" x 38.25"

Artist hand dyed cotton, cotton,  
polyester brocades, fiberglass  
window screen, upholstery fabrics,  
African trade beads

Machine piecing and quilting,  
appliqué, beading





## Sankofa Love

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Carol Beck

Durham, NC  
2017

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45" x 45"

Cotton fabric, assorted threads,  
beads/crystals

Hand and machine appliqué,  
trapunto, machine quilting,  
hand beading, embroidery

# Adore

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Latifah Shakir

Lawrenceville, GA  
2017

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50" x 50"

Recycled clothing, beads

Machine and hand stitching





## A Prince for All Seasons

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**Gwendolyn  
Aqi-Brooks**

Wesley Chapel, FL  
2017

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34" x 34"

Cotton, silk threads, exotic fabrics,  
lace, netting

Hand stitching, painting

# 1 Alphabet Street, Erotic City

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Earamichia Brown

New York, NY  
2016

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44" x 43.5"

Fabric, thread, Mistyfuse,  
fabric marker, batting

Machine piecing, fused appliqué,  
machine quilting



# Prince ... The Quiet Philanthropist

Marjorie Diggs  
Freeman

Durham, NC  
2017

48" x 44.5"

Cotton fabrics and thread, cotton and  
wool batting, fabric pens,  
Inktense pencils

Hand and machine appliqué,  
machine quilting





 **Textile Center**  
A national center for fiber art

3000 University Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414  
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Textile Center's mission is to honor textile traditions,  
promote excellence and innovation, and inspire  
widespread participation in fiber art.

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