

The Uterus Flag Project

Stitchers, knitters, fabric artists and creative people
Those concerned with social justice.

This is a collaborative, social practice art project where women and men use some form of fiber arts and stitch on a pre-painted, piece of fabric 7" x 9" inches tall, and write a reflection statement about their thoughts concerning women's health issues.

The Purpose

The Uterus Flag Project is a profound body of work that allows me to share my creativity and my social concerns rooted in the medicalization of women. The project has evolved into sharing and creating awareness about the importance of the organ, the uterus. The participants become the artists and when the project is exhibited it takes on a feeling of synergism focused on women's health. My mission is educating through the power of art, integrating the ideals of feminism to change the consciousness about women's health.

My personal concerns began with discovering I had an unnecessary hysterectomy. Through this project, I have heard the voices of other women, their personal stories and concerns about their health. It is my belief that women deserve access to valid information to help them make better medical choices.

The Project

Women have shared their personal medical stories by making an artistic statement on a preprinted uterus flag and sharing their words. Men are also invited to participate.

I chose the symbol of a flag, thinking of Tibetan prayer flags and the way they carry messages and prayers in the wind. They are also ephemeral. Our health needs constant awareness and education, regarding the medicines and procedures that are introduced to us by the medical institution. A flag can also be a symbol of a nation, of unifying, and when the flags are displayed together they make a statement drawing attention to the uterus. The uterus is the room we all started from.

I've learned an amazing amount of information from the participants who have shared their art and their words through this art project. I've learned that women's stories are valuable and making a piece of art is also significant. I'd be honored if you would contribute your thoughts, using art, and collaborate on this project.

Your Contribution

Adorn and embellish the hand painted flag with traditional "women materials" (embroidery threads, quilting threads, yarns etc.) and return the project. You can add more material, beads, buttons, etc., and embellish with your personal story. You can be fancy or simple. Be creative with self-expression. Sign your artwork; use a small pointed sharpie! Please answer the questionnaire in your handwriting. I would like to publish the words and images. Your name will not be included on the flag just a number.

Start with a needle and one thread, your story will begin to reveal itself through the process of art.

Artist Statement

Memories, Nostalgic/Hoarding, Personal History, Collections, Textiles, Ephemera,
Recycled, Repurposed, Found Objects, Collage, Calligraphy, Quotations,
Do It Yourself. The Process of Art.

My work involves a critique of a misguided patriarchal medical institution that often misdiagnoses women based on culturally biased attitudes. My process of making art is connected to female bodily experiences and domestic labor. I have learned through the intimate experience of art making and dialogue with others. I am interested in challenging conceived notions of what is craft? What is women's work? What is fine art? Are fiber arts fine art? I'm interested in exploring alternative methods of art making. Through this process I have reconnected my ancestral threads and have come to realize the importance of honoring what was once considered "women's domestic work."

I include fiber arts in my work because it is the thread that connects me to my heritage of women that used this media. I am in veneration of the women that came before me, and I bless the two women to whom I gave birth. My artwork is infused with the desire to elevate the consciousness of women integrating the philosophy and practice of feminism.

Terrilynn

terrilynnquick@gmail.com

<http://uterusflagproject.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.facebook.com/UterusFlagProject>

The Uterus Flag Project is part of *Context*, a grant-funded, instructionally-related Library series supporting student learning and research through art installations. For more information contact context@csusm.edu or 760.750.4378.