Living Fabric: Letitia Huckaby Talks to History

Lawan Glascock | Issue 101

Issue 101

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All those heirloom fabrics in Letitia Huckaby's work—the quilting material, the sacks that would have held flour in family kitchens or been carried through cotton fields under Jim Crow—have history built into them. By pairing them with contemporary images, the artist creates a dialogue across generations about subjects that are part of the objects' DNA.

In their graceful honesty, Huckaby's images remind us to stay steady in our faith and in love rather than reacting in hate or anger. Like the story of Henriette DeLille and her followers, the stories she chooses to tell are the great ones that do not get enough attention. Like the female songbirds that science overlooked, Huckaby continues giving those stories voice, both the sweet and the sorrowful. Her art is an intercessory prayer offered up to overcome division, to heal brokenness, to reconcile strife, and to believe in the beauty and value of others—all others.

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