

"One of the best things I ever did as an artist was to learn the process of traditional quilting and use it to segue into something that demonstrated my style of art. The moment I knew I was headed in the right direction was when I experienced the Gee's Bend Exhibition at The Whitney Museum in New York City. I no longer had to play by the rules of tradition. My pieces Faces in the Crowd, Journey from Home, and Tree of Life are art quilts where I let my imagination soar, and where I was fully in control of the beginning, middle and end. Having more than two decades where I taught various mediums such as painting, drawing, sculpture, two-dimensional art, collage and how to use them to children in the classroom, I began to realize I can break the rules here too. Many of my paintings' multiple layers allow me to explore dimensionality and color."

~ Valerie Deas



Family (Sisters)

**Exhibition
artwork
is available
for purchase.**



Untitled

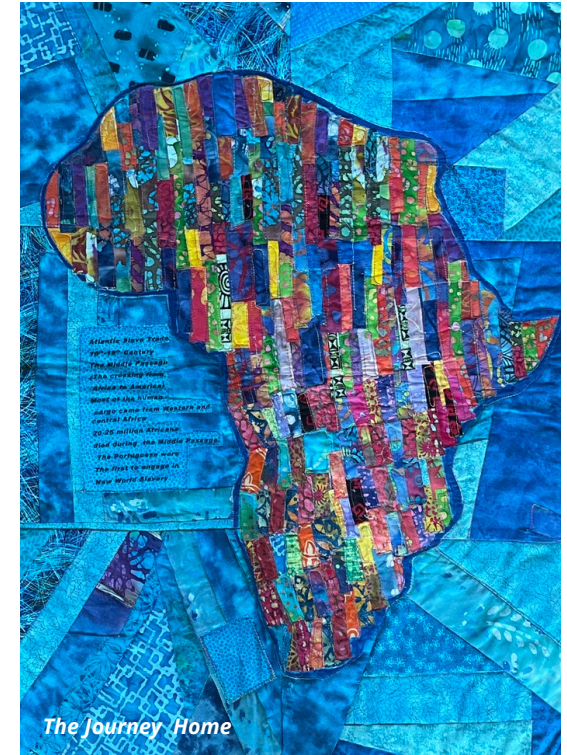
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The Journey Home

VALERIE DEAS

Fabric & Paint

Exhibition

September 1 - October 6, 2023

Monday - Sunday, 11am - 6pm

Zuri

**363 Bleecker Street
New York, NY 10014**



Faces in the Crowd



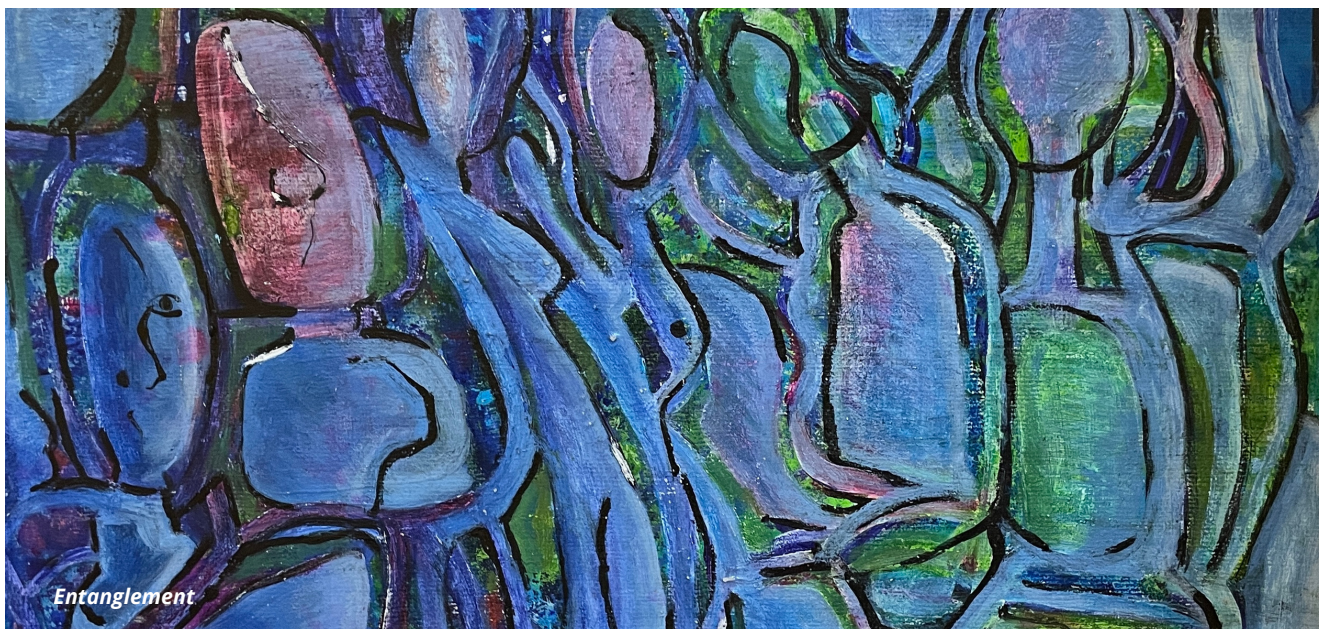
"My signature work consists of bold colors and organic shapes that could be flat, textured, or dimensional. My focus is to give an illusion of reality in a surreal way."

*~ Textile Artist, Valerie Deas:
The art of breaking rules*

Valerie Deas was born in the Bronx, raised in Harlem, and has resided in the Bronx for more than three decades. Deas has professionally taught art for more than 25 years with the New York City Board of Education. Deas has a B.A. and a B.S. from City College of New York, and a M.S. from Bank Street College of Education. Deas has taken painting and drawing classes at The Art Students League of New York; drawing, film, and mask-making classes at the School of Visual Arts, and textiles classes at The City Quilter.

Deas has participated in group shows across the globe including Brazil and the *International Textile Biennial: Beyond Category – Visions of Jazz in Fiber* in San Jose, Costa Rica. She has also had solo shows, including *Thread and Paints* at Gallery M in Harlem, New York. Deas work has been exhibited at Lincoln Center, Rush Gallery, Kente Royal Gallery, and Blue Door Art Gallery. Deas quilts have been touring throughout the U.S. with the *African American Fiber Art Exhibition*. In 2021, Valerie was awarded a City Artist Corps Grant to bring some of her artwork to her community. Valerie has been a Bronx Council on the Arts (BCA) Community Engagement Grantee for two consecutive years (2022 and 2023). In 2022, Valerie restored six Gee's Bends Quilts for SoHarlem's exhibition at the Malt House. In 2023, her artwork, *The Three Women*, was selected as the cover art for the second edition of the novella, *My Xanthi* by author Stephanie Cotsirilos.

Deas, called "The Fabric Whisperer" by Textile Artist, is the current Programming Board Chair of the Riverdale Art Association and a member of Studio Art Quilt Associates (SAQUA), Blue Door Art Center, BX200 Visual Artist Directory, and Harlem Girls Quilting Circle (HGQC).



Entanglement