



## Program Outline & Panelist List

The Art of Becoming: Exploring Gender Equity Through Textile Art & Craft, with SJSA

Venue: Zoom, Virtual

Date & Time: February 27, 2024 | 7:30pm (total program to last approx. 50-60min)

Program will be broken down as follows:

- **7:20pm**—Arrivals and initial welcomes
- **7:30pm**—**Elise**, final welcomes and introduction to the evening's program.
- **Hello and welcome!** My name is Elise Couture-Stone. I joined the Gender Equity in Museums Movement (GEMM) in the fall of 2022. Currently, I serve as the Editor of the GEMM Newsletter, which we send out quarterly. If you have any articles, discussions, or topics you'd like to see reflected in the newsletter, please don't hesitate to reach out and let me know! The GEMM email is listed in the chat section on your screen, along with resources connected to our panelists.

For those of you who may be new to us, GEMM is a coalition of individuals and organizations committed to raising awareness, affecting change, and championing transparency about intersectional gender equity in the museum workplace. Tonight, I'm joined by a few of our collaborators and peers working toward this change. Please join me in welcoming Sara Trail, Stacey Watson, Dyeese Matthews, and Jocelyn Gama.

Panelists, I know we'll delve into more detail about your individual work later in the program. However, would each of you mind briefly introducing yourselves and describing the expertise you're bringing to tonight's program? Each of you specializes in niche aspects of tonight's topic, and they are each so vital in this work.

Sara, Let's start with you!

- **7:46-7:51** (5min)—Back to Elise, for a short talk on the history of quilting—Making connections between then and now.
- **8:00-8:30**—Panel discussion begins.

Panelists will have about 4 minutes to answer each of the following questions:

1. One of the challenges that artists face is how to express the multiple and overlapping aspects of their identities and experiences in their work. How do you navigate this complexity when you begin a new project? What are some of the questions or themes that guide your creative process? We would love to



see some examples of your work that illustrate your answers, so please feel free to share your screen and show us some images.

2. The quilts that you create are not merely decorative objects, but powerful expressions of your personal and collective histories. How do you decide what images to include in your quilts, and what do they reveal about your identity and experience? How do you balance your own voice and vision as an artist with the voices and visions of those you represent or honor in your quilts? How do you navigate the complex and sometimes conflicting aspects of your identity, such as race, gender, class, religion, or nationality, in your artistic choices?
3. As we discussed, quilting and sewing have a long and rich history that reflects the social and cultural changes of different times and places, tell us a bit about your personal experience in the modern sewing guild. What are some of the challenges you are up against? How has the modern quilting community responded to your mission and work?
4. Following up on my previous inquiry, I wonder how the art world has responded to your creations. How can museums foster more diversity and spark deeper conversations about these topics? I would like to hear your thoughts on collaboration and the role of our institutions in raising awareness and advancing positive change.
5. How has gender equity, diversity, and inclusion evolved in your art practice over the years? What advancements (if any) have you witnessed in the art field? What draws you to this particular theme over, say, gun violence, or the other topics covered by SJSA activists?
6. And for our final question, before opening it up to our audience: what do you foresee for your art practice in the next 10 years? Talk to us about the roles you hope to take on, topics you want to tackle, and groups you want to engage with, in this time. What do you hope to achieve?

## Q & A

Now we'd like to open the program up to you, our attendees, and have you ask our panelists some questions!

## Closing

I very much want to thank everyone for your participation in this evening's GEMM Circle, and I especially want to thank Sara, Stacy, Dyese, and Jocelyn, for working with us on this project and for sharing their expertise and insights with us.

Both GEMM and the SJSA believes that leadership is not a privilege of the few, but rather, a potential of the many. You don't need to be in a position of power to take up space and control the conversation. Start from where you are. Sometimes all you need is just a needle and thread.

THANK YOU for being here!