



The Fabric Workshop  
and Museum

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The Fabric Workshop and Museum Explores the Complexity  
of American-ness in *Some American Dreams***



Donald Lipski, in collaboration with The Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia. *Who's Afraid of Red, White and Blue #37*, 1990. White wool gabardine, 71 x 115 inches. FWM Visual Archives.

**Philadelphia, PA, April 7, 2026—The Fabric Workshop and Museum (FWM)** is pleased to announce *Some American Dreams*, a group exhibition organized on the occasion of the U.S. Semiquincentennial. This presentation of works from The Fabric Workshop and Museum's collection explores the complexity of American-ness through lenses of history, memory, and mythology. Made by past Artists-in-Residence in collaboration with the FWM Studio, the projects reimagine symbols of nationhood and belonging, critique ongoing legacies of inequity, and offer expansive visions of kinship and community. The exhibition takes its name from June Jordan's 1986 essay "Waking Up in the Middle of

Some American Dreams,” in which the poet calls for a multiplicity of American *dreams* rather than a singular paradigm. It runs April 15–June 14, 2026.

*Some American Dreams* features 27 works by 20 artists employing a range of media—including furniture, sculpture, textiles and clothing, video, and photography—and representing four decades of making at FWM. The works meditate on themes of indigeneity and race, alternative origin stories, landscape and the environment, the national figure as icon, and images of cultural affiliation. Renditions of prominent historical figures—such as Frederick Douglass, George and Martha Washington, Harriet Jacobs, and Muhammad Ali—are interspersed with reworkings of patriotic symbols.

**Hock E Aye Vi Edgar Heap of Birds**’s abstract scarves render Cheyenne and Arapaho Nations’ reservation lands as vibrant patchworks of color, while **Becky Howland**’s maximalist table setting condemns environmental exploitation through depictions of toxic waste and poisoned waterways. In works by the **Rev. Howard Finster**, **Rose B. Simpson**, and **Luis Jiménez**, the mythological dimensions of the Americas emerge as printed visitations from angels and aliens, a ceramic earth mother goddess, and volcanic deities on low-rider car seats. Through recognizable hairstyles, a graffiti tag, and a cherished local musical act launched to stardom, other works by **Alison Saar**, **Mario Ybarra, Jr.**, and **Yinka Shonibare CBE RA** consider visual markers of communal identity.

The artists represented in this exhibition break down borders and categorical distinctions to propose a polyphony of American dreams shaped by hybridity, friction, and affinity. They ask: what if “America” is not one project, but many? And how might these Americas be affirmed, resisted, or remade, in Jordan’s words, to envision “one new day after another?”

### Full Artist List

Laurie Anderson, S.A. Bachman, Nicole Eisenman, Rev. Howard Finster, Renée Green, Hock E Aye Vi Edgar Heap of Birds, Becky Howland, Luis Jiménez, Tommy Joseph, Glenn Ligon, Donald Lipski, James Luna, Robert Pruitt, Tim Rollins and K.O.S., Alison Saar, Betye Saar, Yinka Shonibare CBE RA, Rose B. Simpson, Kara Walker, and Mario Ybarra Jr.

### About the Curator

*Some American Dreams* is curated by Hilde Nelson, FWM Curatorial Fellow.

### About The Fabric Workshop and Museum

The Fabric Workshop and Museum (FWM) is an internationally acclaimed contemporary art museum devoted to the creation, presentation, and preservation of innovative works of art. Its mission—*Collaborating with artists, revealing new possibilities*—embodies a 49-year commitment to helping artists experiment with the expressive possibilities of a broad spectrum of new materials and techniques. Through its renowned Artist-in-Residence Program, FWM provides artists at all stages of their careers with the opportunity to collaborate with its studio staff and take their work in fresh and often unexpected directions. FWM presents large-scale exhibitions, installations, and performative work, utilizing innovative fiber and other media including sculpture, installation, video, painting, photography, ceramics, and architecture. Founded in 1977, FWM brings this spirit of creative

investigation and discovery to an eager audience, broadening access to art and advancing its role as a catalyst for innovation and social connection.

Museum Entry: General admission is free (suggested donation of \$10).

Hours: Visit us Wednesday–Friday, 12:00–6:00 pm; Saturday–Sunday, 12:00–5:00 pm. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

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