



**CLAIRE OLIVER GALLERY ANNOUNCES SOLO PRESENTATION BY ARTIST  
SHARON KERRY-HARLAN AT OUTSIDER ART FAIR**

**Presentation Marks Debut for Gallery at the Fair and First Solo Exhibition by Artist, Featuring  
Textile and Mixed Media Works  
February 27 – March 2, 2025**



**FEBRUARY 3, 2025, NEW YORK, NY** – Claire Oliver Gallery announces a solo presentation by artist Sharon Kerry-Harlan at the Outsider Art Fair, marking the gallery's debut at the fair and the gallery's first solo exhibition by the artist. The presentation will feature a selection of works by Kerry-Harlan, an autodidact whose work blends traditional techniques such as silk screening and fabric dyeing with contemporary fabric manipulation and painting methods, creating rust-dyed and monochromatic large-scale textile works, vibrant mixed-media collages, paintings, and figurative objects—such as her series of Black Eyed Peas dolls—rich in narratives shaped by history and the socio-political landscape. The Outsider Art Fair runs **February 27 – March 2, 2025**, at the Metropolitan Pavilion in New York City.

Sharon Kerry-Harlan (b. 1951, Miami, FL) is a visual artist living and working between Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, and Hollywood, Florida. Inspired by her African diasporic heritage, the rhythm of modern metropolitan life, and the interplay between historical narratives and contemporary events, Kerry-Harlan positions herself as a keeper of information and histories. She repurposes found objects, materials, and items passed along to her, incorporating them into her work while balancing geometric forms with figural curves to weave captivating narratives. Through dynamic shapes, intricate patterns, and multifaceted perspectives, Kerry-Harlan's work transcends temporal boundaries, fostering a dialogue that bridges the past and present.



A bold storyteller through textiles and mixed media, Kerry-Harlan transforms fabric into a dynamic canvas, seamlessly merging traditional craftsmanship with contemporary expression. Her rust-dyed textiles, hand-painted compositions, and intricate collages explore themes of memory, resilience, and cultural identity, reflecting her deep engagement with the complexities of the African diasporic experience. Drawing from a lineage of designers and quilters, her work bridges generations, offering visually compelling narratives that challenge and engage audiences.

This presentation underscores Claire Oliver Gallery's commitment to championing artists who push boundaries and amplify underrepresented voices within contemporary art. Kerry-Harlan's work embodies the spirit of the Outsider Art Fair, a premier platform for Self-Taught Art, Art Brut, and Outsider Art. The 33rd edition of OAF will feature 66 exhibitors from 40 cities across 9 countries, continuing its mission to showcase groundbreaking works that reshape art historical discourse.

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#### **IMAGE CAPTIONS**

Sharon Kerry-Harlan, *Fragments of the Past, Threads of Memory*, 2025. Thread, found objects and textiles, quilted, 26 x 52 inches. Image courtesy of Claire Oliver Gallery

#### **EVENT INFORMATION**

Location: Metropolitan Pavilion, 125 West 18th Street, New York, NY 10011

Dates: February 27 – March 2, 2025

Schedule:

- VIP & Press Preview: Thursday, February 27, 2025 | 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm
- Vernissage: Thursday, February 27, 2025 | 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
- Public Hours:
  - Friday, February 28, 2025 | 11:00 am – 8:00 pm
  - Saturday, March 1, 2025 | 11:00 am – 8:00 pm
  - Sunday, March 2, 2025 | 11:00 am – 6:00 pm

Accessibility: Outsider Art Fair is committed to ensuring an inclusive and accessible experience for all. For assistance, please contact [info@outsiderartfair.com](mailto:info@outsiderartfair.com)

#### **MEDIA CONTACT**

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#### **ABOUT SHARON KERRY-HARLAN**

Sharon Kerry-Harlan (b. 1951, Miami, FL) is a visual artist living and working between Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, and Hollywood, Florida. Raised in a family of artists, Harlan learned quilting from her mother and elements of design and abstraction from her uncle, an artist and designer. She integrates traditional quilting techniques with contemporary approaches to fabric manipulation to create her signature 'rust-dyed', monochromatic large-scale textile works for which she is celebrated.

Kerry-Harlan's textile work, mixed-media collages, paintings, and figurative objects—such as the Black Eyed Pea dolls—are deeply informed by race, history, and the socio-political landscape. Her artistic practice centers on designing her own textile patterns and fabrics, sometimes incorporating found and



inherited materials into her compositions that balance geometric forms, figurative elements, and intricate patterns. Inspired by her African diasporic heritage, the rhythm of modern metropolitan life, and the interplay between historical narratives and contemporary events, Kerry-Harlan positions herself as a keeper and translator of information and histories, crafting visual narratives that convey multifaceted perspectives. Her work transcends temporal boundaries, fostering a dialogue that bridges the past and present.

Sharon Kerry-Harlan holds a BA from Marquette University and studied art at the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design, both located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Her work is part of the permanent collection at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, and she has exhibited at numerous national and international institutions, including the Harn Museum (Gainesville, FL), the Racine Art Museum (Racine, WI), the Erie Art Museum (Erie, PA), the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center (Wilberforce, OH), and the California State Museum (Sacramento, CA), among others.

#### **ABOUT CLAIRE OLIVER GALLERY**

Claire Oliver Gallery is located in Central Harlem in a four-story brownstone. For nearly 25 years, Claire Oliver Gallery has showcased and celebrated artwork, with a focus on work by women and people of color, which transcends and challenges the traditional art historical canon. The gallery's forward-thinking program and exclusive commitment to the primary market allows for an intensive focus that has nurtured and grown the careers of our artists. Many of the gallery's artists have been included in The Venice Biennale, The Whitney Biennial, and biennales in Sydney, Pittsburgh, and Lyon and have exhibited works in major international museums including the Smithsonian American Art Museum, The Art Institute of Chicago, Centre Georges Pompidou, The Philadelphia Museum of Art, and The Los Angeles County Museum of Art amongst others. Claire Oliver Gallery artists are included in the permanent collections of many important museums worldwide including The Smithsonian American Art Museum, The Art Institute of Chicago, The Tate Britain, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The State Hermitage Museum, MoMA, and the Museum of Arts and Design amongst many others. Claire Oliver Gallery held the first American exhibition for the Russian collaborative AES+F, whose work went on to twice represent Russia in the Russian pavilion of the Venice Biennale. Gallery artists have received prestigious fellowships including Fulbright, Guggenheim, USArtist and National Endowment for the Arts.

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