

Karen Hampton: The Journey North  
October 20, 2016-April 23, 2017  
Textile Gallery

Los Angeles-based textile artist Karen Hampton applies a contemporary approach to examining the African-American diaspora that explores her personal and ancestral narrative featuring new and recent textile works that tie together stories of Hampton's multicultural heritage, from her family's colonial past to her present experiences as a person of African, Caribbean, and American descent. The multilayered installation showcases the aesthetic and conceptual richness of Hampton's textile works, which are interwoven with a myriad of genealogical references, and serve as a powerful vehicle for instilling the experiences of those who came before her while charting and claiming Hampton's own unique place within that history. The exhibition was originally co-curated by Associate Professor of Art History Stephen J. Goldberg and former Associate Director and Senior Curator of Collections Susanna White for the Wellin Museum of Art at Hamilton College in Clinton, New York.

"Although deeply personal to the artist herself, Hampton's body of work transcends that individual connection to resonate more broadly with the struggle with identity felt across America today," said White. "This installation not only tells the story of Hampton's family tree but the complicated story of America, rife with dreams for freedom and the conflict of displacement. As visitors situate themselves within Hampton's narrative, my hope is they expand their understanding of the contemporaneous as part of a larger, infinite spectrum that continuously shapes the world we live in."