



1929

Date

2001

Primary Maker

Karen Hampton

Medium

Natural dyes and hand-stitching on found cotton tea towel

Description

Harlem Renaissance poet Countee Cullen's "Incident" (1925) describes the deep and lasting wounds racial slurs can leave on a person. In this poignant image, Hampton stitched the text of the poem across a hand-painted silhouette of her father as an infant. The text and images are imposed on a found tea towel that had been embroidered with "pickaninnies," long in use in this country as the pejorative caricature of African American children.

Dimensions

Overall: 32 3/4 x 24 1/4 in. (83.2 x 61.6 cm) Frame: 41 1/2 x 32 x 2 3/8 in. (105.4 x 81.3 x 6 cm)