

Quilting from My Bed: A Neurodivergent Pandemic Story

March 2020-January 2022

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March-April 2020 Beginnings

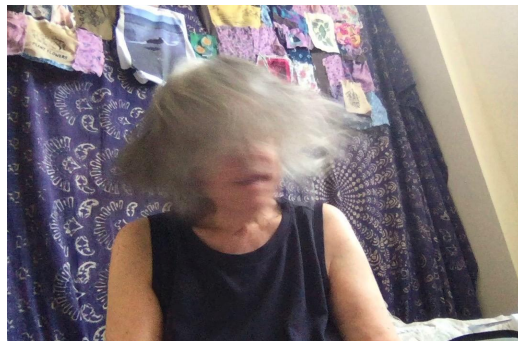
March-April I taught speeches by James Baldwin and Martin Luther King to first-year college writing students, pivoting from face-to-face classrooms to remote learning. I began the quilt, and the quilt draft became background for remote teaching and learning.



May-June 2020 Anxiety

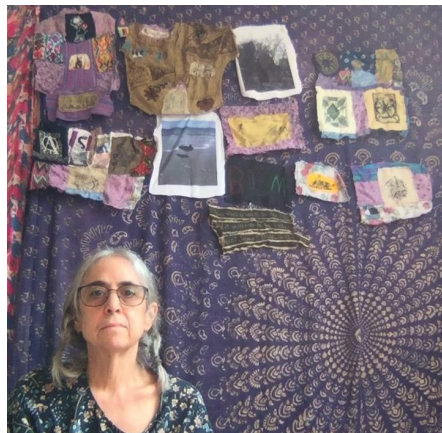
May I coordinated my dad's 90th remote birthday party. George Floyd was murdered two days later in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I was unvaccinated. I could protest only from my bed.

June #BlackLiveMatter protests continue. The quilt draft was in disarray. I made a map of the draft of the quilt and tried to write. I could not write. Eventually, after 90 days in quarantine, my partner and I emerged from lockdown. See "[Emerging](https://youtu.be/EZxj_QJpOiE)" https://youtu.be/EZxj_QJpOiE (YouTube video)



July 2020 Persistence

July I co-founded and co-facilitated an antiracism reading group (ongoing in January 2023). I returned to quilting from my bed.



August-December 2020 Precarity

September Quilting continued. I began the first full semester of teaching remote sections of First-Year College Writing. See “[Beyond Zoom Fatigue, or Why I Asked for Accommodations.](https://community.macmillanlearning.com/t5/bits-blog/beyond-zoom-fatigue-or-why-i-asked-for-accommodations/ba-p/13157)” <https://community.macmillanlearning.com/t5/bits-blog/beyond-zoom-fatigue-or-why-i-asked-for-accommodations/ba-p/13157> (Blog Post for Bits Blog Macmillan Community)

October My partner’s surprise 70th birthday party was hosted remotely.

December I thought the quilt was finished. My dad came down with Covid 19. I managed his care from my bed.



January 2021-December 2021 Grief

January My dad died on January 6, 2021 at the same time the insurrection was beginning in Washington D. C. From bed. I planned my dad's funeral and, several days later, watched the funeral on the mortuary's Facebook livestream. Shortly after my dad's funeral, I got my first vaccine and a new president was inaugurated in Washington D.C. See "[The Body Cannot Sustain an Insurrection](http://journalofmultimodalrhetorics.com/6-2-dieterle-and-berry)," poem/reflection at

<http://journalofmultimodalrhetorics.com/6-2-dieterle-and-berry> *Journal of Multimodal Rhetorics* 6.2.

February I continued teaching from bed. My partner received his first vaccine.

March Our cat swallowed a piece of fabric and almost died. He was isolated through the beginning of April and eventually recovered.

August I realized that the quilt needed to be revised. I added the patch: "Write everywhere."

October My partner and I received our first booster shots.

November The quilt still seemed unfinished. I added a quote from James Baldwin, "All safety is an illusion."



January 2022 Movement

January I was still teaching remote first-year writing from my bedroom, but I decided to teach from a makeshift desk near the window where the light was better. The quilt was complete, at least for now. For my last Covid-19 pandemic semester of remote teaching, I hung the quilt on the window frame to use as a background on Zoom.



Credits

Fabric and patches

[Liminal Spaces Shop](#)

[Occupy Wall Street Screenprinters Cooperative](#)

[Microcosm Publishing](#)

[Housing Works](#)

[Goodwill](#)

[Philadelphia Printworks](#)

Friends

Manitoba, Canada

New York City

Portland, Oregon

New York City

Tempe, Arizona

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Everywhere

Related Multimedia Created from My Bed

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[Beyond Zoom Fatigue, or Why I Asked for Accommodations](#)

[The Body Cannot Sustain an Insurrection](#)

Gratitude

[James Baldwin](#) for Inspiration

[Steve Cormany](#) for wisdom

[Sarah Mangle](#) for email art prompts