



Ursula McCarty

A Stitch in Time: Give Me Time

113/4" x 111/2," (17" x 17") printed and resist-dyed fabrics, found fabric, feed bag, cotton thread, 2017 Opening bid: \$1000.00

Artist statement: When I first saw the Goddard clock I thought, "A stitch in time saves nine," which brought to mind this quote from Lydia Child's *The American Frugal Housewife*, 1829;

"The true economy of housekeeping, is the art of gathering up all the fragments so that nothing be lost. I mean the fragments of *time* – as well as *materials*."

My work is always informed by the history of women's domestic roles and influenced by women's domestic textile traditions. Domestic textiles are at the nexus of "women's work" and the challenge of creative expression, within a rather narrowly circumscribed set of allowable outlets. Within this narrow range, however, women have consistently created aesthetically interesting and amusing objects that challenge the boundaries between "art" and "craft." Rather than mere use-value, that is, such objects—be they embroidered samplers, quilts, decorated hand-towels, crocheted potholders, etc.—are made for the pleasure of creation and the aesthetic satisfaction they can give both to the maker and to other viewers. I drew upon the domestic sampler tradition for the "A Stitch in Time" series, those delicately stitched expressions of female piety and virtue, which hung on the walls of well-ordered homes, where well-nurtured and educated children lived. A family who could afford to educate

young women in the domestic “fine” arts could also afford to purchase and display a timepiece like the Goddard clock, an object both useful and beautiful.

Artist biography: Ursula C. McCarty studied art and theatre at the University of Iowa where she earned a BA in Art and a Master’s Degree in Fiber Arts. She earned her MFA in Textile Design at the University of Kansas. She taught a variety of fine art, theatre and women’s studies classes at various colleges and universities for more than twenty years. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally. She has designed costumes at a variety of theatres in the United States. For the past two seasons, she has designed costumes at Oldcastle Theatre in Bennington, Vermont.