

Worksheet #2: *Crafting as a Democratic Practice*

Thinking about Letterforms

"Sometimes I want to get various edges, and shading. It kind of breathes a different life into the ink, into the letter."
– Sammy Little

In the artwork you examined, the letters were created using a different process and in a different style. One was drawn on parchment and one was stitched together from cloth patches. Look closely at the artworks and sketch one letter from each below:

- A calligraphy letter from the Declaration of Independence, or from Sammy Little's recreation of the line beginning "We hold these truths..."
- A patchwork letter from the *Freedom* quilt (For this, look carefully at the patched letter to find the seams. It is made up of squares and triangles.)

What mood or feeling does the style of letter seem to express?

How does the style of the letter suit or "fit" with the artwork?

What font or lettering style is your favorite—one that you enjoy using? Do you think it would be suitable for the project of a text-based artwork in calligraphy or stitched lettering? Keep in mind that your project is meant to document an event or commemorates an ideal about the United States. How might the style of your lettering affect the impact of your message?

Crafting a work about Democracy

"In a participatory democracy in my opinion it's a citizen obligation to understand what you value for yourself, your family, your community, and to talk with your elected decision makers because you've got some ideas and input."

– Robert L. Lynch

Imagine an artwork you will create, informed by what you have examined; a crafted document.

- What will you document? Think about some words, messages, or phrases that you might like to depict. You could be inspired by what you have examined and thought about in this lesson. Maybe a moment in U.S. history interests you. Your words or phrases could be a memorial, or a political expression such as the quilt.
- Sketch your ideas.
- Will you use calligraphy or embroidery to create your work? How will your design and letter choices affect or enhance the strength of your document? What meaning are you hoping to convey?