

## 100 Women: Collaborations Beyond the Veil

An Exhibit by Ginny Sykes



At the Carter G. Woodson Regional Chicago Public Library  
Home of the Vivian Harsh Research Collection  
9525 S. Halsted Street  
Chicago, IL

As an homage to the 100th anniversary of the Women's Suffrage Amendment, Chicago artist Ginny Sykes, created a series of 100 banners depicting 100 Chicago women all standing in identical draped dress and pose - one hand on the heart and one on the abdomen - for her, the seats of feminine intuition. Sykes photographed and interviewed these women in her studio. The photographs were then printed on translucent fabric which, when hung, create a powerful monument invoking female intimacy and strength.

The Chicago Women's History Center is sponsoring the exhibit of a selection of these banners in the lobby of the Woodson Regional Library on the city's south side. The women Sykes interviewed and photographed for her project, represent a diversity of perspectives, ages, ethnicities, races, and backgrounds with the youngest woman being 14 years and the oldest in her 90s. The banners themselves are a reference to the original suffragists who made

powerful use of banners bearing hand stitched slogans such as: "Mr. President: How Long Must Women Wait for Liberty" and "More Ballots, Less Bullets."

Sykes selected six banners depicting contemporary Chicago African American women for her exhibit at the Woodson Library. The women included are:



**Cynthia Carter** (pictured above): "I am a Light seeker...I seek light and love and Express Light and love through the arts in Chicago and abroad I am Mother Earth, I am a Healer, I am WombMan."

**Elishabath Leidy-Bringgs:** Dancer, crafter, student, educator and world explorer. Deeply interested. Striving to create with more empathy and gratitude. "I always fancy myself as a liberated fem."

**Fartun Muhudin:** Born in Mogadishu, Somalia and raised in Albany Park. Skilled in creating comforting and energetic spaces she coordinates galleries and pop up events for local artists and chefs alike.

**Jackie Taylor:** From Chicago, she loves to produce, write, act, sing, dance, exercise and be the boss. Founder of the Black Ensemble Theater, she identifies as "she" and "her" and as an African American woman.

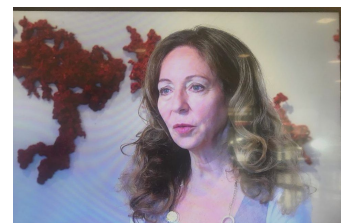
**Makeba Kedem-DuBose:** A Chicago native, she is a multidisciplinary artist and curator practicing in the Chicagoland area, regionally, and internationally. Her work is widely published in books and collections.

**Phoenix Sowles Barlow:** A 14 year old visual artist and dancer, she is sensitive, intuitive and kind. She is gifted in baking and has dreams of one day traveling the world.



A banner depicting Jackie Taylor, actress, singer, director, playwright and theater founder, is hung next to a distinguished portrait of Carter G. Woodson, a pioneer African American historian, in the library lobby, invoking and honoring a balance between different ways of knowing and seeking truth.

In addition to the banners, the Woodson Library exhibit includes a videotaped interview with Sykes in which she explains the origins of her project and provides a context for the work, as well as a video montage of photographs of all 100 banners. The video with Sykes was produced with the assistance of Chicago filmmakers Rana Segal and Laurie Little, also a CWHC board member.



The exhibit in the lobby of the Woodson Library will be available for viewing for three months beginning Aug. 26, 2020. For information about library hours and directions see: <https://www.chipublib.org/locations/81/>

## Twitch Broadcast Aug. 26, 2020

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Women's Suffrage Amendment, CWHC joined with Ginny Sikes and Chicago performance artist Carron Little in a live broadcast on our new Twitch channel. The technical aspects of this event were graciously provided by Carron Little.



In addition to Ginny's presentation on the above project, Carron performed her public engagement project **Spare Rib Revisited** which is based on interviews she did with women from diverse cultures, in different cities and countries, ages twenty to one hundred.

For the broadcast Carron performed two of the poems she wrote about these women, tracing their lives as an anthropological map of a place over time. Her reading was accompanied by stunning and innovative visual effects which added layers of meaning to the poetic performance. Little sees the centennial as a marker of time to investigate the physical, emotional and social tools need for liberation.

A recording of this broadcast, and documentation, will be available on our Twitch channel for two weeks: <https://www.twitch.tv/videos/722547857>  
After that it will be available on the Chicago Women's History Center YouTube channel - more information to follow.

[More information about Caron Little's work](#)

[More information about Ginny Sykes' work](#)

## CHICAGO WOMEN'S HISTORY CENTER

The Chicago Women's History Center is a non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to documenting, preserving, exploring and sharing Chicago women's history.

CWHC is a vital network of scholars, teachers, archivists, oral historians, librarians, public historians, media makers, activists and others interested in the power of Chicago women's history to inform the present and inspire the future.

For more information about CWHC and our current project:  
[www.chicagowomenshistory.org](http://www.chicagowomenshistory.org)

**Become a member of CWHC.** Membership levels include:

General Member: \$50

Sustaining Member: \$100

Student Member: \$25.

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**Donate to Our Work.**

CWHC gratefully accepts donations to further our work documenting, preserving and sharing Chicago women's history.

Donate to CWHC

## Join Us

Sign up here to receive information about the Chicago Women's History Center.

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CWHC is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization. Your contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

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2109 N. Humboldt Blvd., Chicago, IL 60647  
[www.chicagowomenshistory.org](http://www.chicagowomenshistory.org)  
773-227-0093