



I Sit and Sew

Lise Melville  
with poetry by  
Alice Moore

Dunbar-Nelson



I Sit and Sew (set in Goudy Old Style) was screen-printed in Kingston, Ontario. Alice Moore Dunbar-Nelson's poem was published in Caroling Disk: An Anthology of Verse by Negro Poets (1927.) The structure is based on the sewing kits, called "housewives," carried by WWI soldiers. Transformer Press

Use Melhorn - Boe 5/12 2019















I sit and sew—a useless task it seems,  
My hands grown tired, my head weighed down  
with dreams—  
The panoply of war, the martial tread of men,  
Grim-faced, stern-eyed, gazing beyond the ken  
Of lesser souls, whose eyes have not seen Death,  
Nor learned to hold their lives but as a breath—





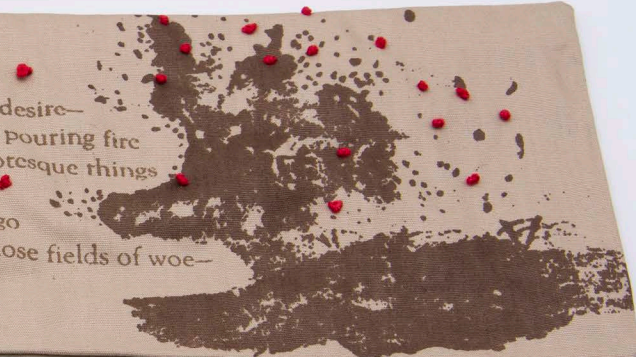




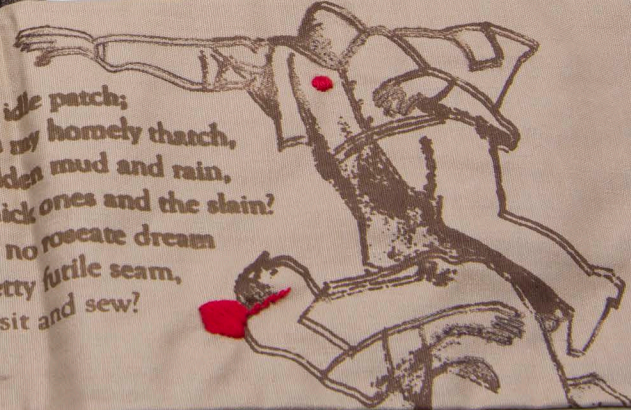
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Not learned to hold their lives but as a breath—



But—I must sit and sew.  
I sit and sew—my heart aches with desire—  
That pageant terrible, that fiercely pouring fire  
On wasted fields, and writhing grotesque things  
Once men. My soul in pity flings  
Appealing cries, yearning only to go  
There in that holocaust of hell, those fields of woe—  
But—I must sit and sew.



The little useless seam, the idle patch;  
Why dream I here beneath my homely thatch,  
When there they lie in sodden mud and rain,  
Pitifully calling me, the quick ones and the slain?  
You need me. Christ! It is no roseate dream  
That beckons me—this pretty futile seam,  
It stifles me—God, must I sit and sew?





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10 YARDS EACH COLOR  
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