



Christopher Myers
American, born 1974

Fish Pieta, 2020

appliqué fabric

Purchase through the generosity of Schwanda
Rountree, Kate Nevin, and Libby and Lee Buck, 2021.18

About the Art

- Myers draws on the *pietà* form, a common Christian visual tradition in which Mary is depicted mourning over the dead body of Jesus in her lap. Here, instead of a body, the central figure holds a large, slumped fish.
- Myers's tapestries are meant to be reminiscent of the Asafo flags made by people from the Fan culture in Ghana. Myers has stated: "In this tapestry, I am specifically thinking of Alice Lakwena, the leader of a religious cult in the North of Uganda during the 1980s who often held fish as a sigil of her office as the leader of the Lord's Resistance Army."
- Myers frequently works collaboratively with other artists and creative makers throughout the globe. This work was designed and conceived by Myers but was sewn by Egyptian artists from a community that has a tradition of working with appliqué fabric across generations.

About the Artist

1974: Born in New York, New York.

1995: Myers published his first book.

1998: Won a Caldecott Honor for his illustrations in the book *Harlem*.

2020: Myers designed *Fish Pieta*.

2021: The Ackland acquired *Fish Pieta*.