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

2020: Myers designed Fish Pieta.
2021: The Ackland acquired Fish Pieta.