

Basic Detail Report



Shades of Alice

Date

1988/93

Primary Maker

Faith Ringgold

Materials

Canvas, fabric, acrylic paint

Description

This bold quilt has bright and pastel colors. Alice, the central figure, stands on a stack of books and looks at her own reflection in the mirror. The surrounding animals are framed by windows and look down at Alice. The artist used a loose application of paint. The handwritten text at the top and the bottom of the quilt tells Alice's story. The quilt's text is as follows: Dear Mommy, Have you ever

seen a white rabbit dressed up in a suit and vest walking fast and talking to himself? Well I have. That is why I followed him to see where he was going. He went to a thicket in the park and down a rabbit hole. I fell in after him. Down, down, down I fell Mommy, until there was no further down to go. Now I cannot find the white rabbit and I am in a strange inner city with no sky. Peculiar looking animals who talk peer out of windows in buildings that have small doors. They have threatened to eat me, but they cannot agree on who or what I am, or how they should cook me. I told them my name is Alice In Wonderland and that I am Through The Looking Glass. They told me there was an Alice here once but that she looked nothing like me and that I must be someone else; so they have made me stand on a stack of Alice In Wonderland books until I say who I really am. The mice are faxing this message to you since the goats have eaten all the paper and the snakes have all the phones lines busy day and night. The mice who operate the fax machines are wild about Michael Jackson. They tried to get their Alice to teach them to dance and sing like Michael but she couldn't. I can't either but for some strange reason they are convinced that I can. I have promised them that if they fax this message to you, I will teach them to dance like Michael. Now the mice are all dressed in black fedoras and jumping around yelling "I'm bad, I'm bad." They are having a wine and cheese party to celebrate their new careers as Michael Jackson impersonators. All the animals are quite drunk now from all the wine and I am still standing on the stack of Alice in Wonderland books since the blue alligator continues to snap at me. He wants to eat me now whether he knows who I am or not. Mommy, please watch for the white rabbit. He must be in New York. I first saw him on 145th Street heading downtown. Follow him to the thicket in the park and down the rabbit hole to the inner city with no sky. When you come you can tell these crazy animals who I really am. Till I am home again, I love you Mommy.

Dimensions

58 3/4 x 56 1/4 in. (149.2 x 142.9 cm)