

DMA Center for Creative Connections

Interactive Gallery Spotlight

A Web of Wisdom



In *Starry Crown* by John Biggers, three women sit passing a thread between them. The women depicted in this painting are known to be female relatives of the artist. The woman in the middle—his mother, on the right—his aunt, and the woman on the left is an unknown relative. This painting is filled with symbols referencing both African and American cultures. For Biggers, women represent the continuation of tradition, and the string that passes between them symbolizes the spoken word that carries knowledge and traditions across generations.

When viewing this work of art, we ask visitors to consider the words of wisdom important women in their lives have shared with them. The responses we receive are heartfelt, funny, sad, silly, and full of joy.

During the spring of 2015, Writer-in-Residence A. Kendra Greene assembled these visitor responses into small booklets called, *Common Thread: Selections of women's wisdom, guidance, counsel, advice, experience, notions, revelations, hard truths, and plain facts*. At various points throughout the past year, these booklets have been available for visitors to take. These booklets are a way to extend the life of the visitor responses so that even when the work of art is no longer on view, the responses and the message of the work of art still have a presence in our visitors' lives.

Here are a few of our favorite visitor responses:



In Every Corner, the string symbolizes the wisdom we've passed traditions and knowledge through generations.

What wisdom has an important woman in your life shared with you?

Always drive with pants on
-Aysa's Mom

In Every Corner, the string symbolizes the wisdom we've passed traditions and knowledge through generations.

What wisdom has an important woman in your life shared with you?

Always try something at least once
my mom

In Every Corner, the string symbolizes the wisdom we've passed traditions and knowledge through generations.

What wisdom has an important woman in your life shared with you?

Take care of your household!

In Every Corner, the string symbolizes the wisdom we've passed traditions and knowledge through generations.

What wisdom has an important woman in your life shared with you?

Always have a back-up plan!

In Every Corner, the string symbolizes the wisdom we've passed traditions and knowledge through generations.

What wisdom has an important woman in your life shared with you?

always go for the boy with good hair

In Every Corner, the string symbolizes the wisdom we've passed traditions and knowledge through generations.

What wisdom has an important woman in your life shared with you?

Always be a queen not a princess

In Every Corner, the string symbolizes the wisdom we've passed traditions and knowledge through generations.

What wisdom has an important woman in your life shared with you?

No matter what you've done, always own home

In Every Corner, the string symbolizes the wisdom we've passed traditions and knowledge through generations.

What wisdom has an important woman in your life shared with you?

Always Be Humble!

In Every Corner, the string symbolizes the wisdom we've passed traditions and knowledge through generations.

What wisdom has an important woman in your life shared with you?

3/16/16
Always do your own thing

In Every Corner, the string symbolizes the wisdom we've passed traditions and knowledge through generations.

What wisdom has an important woman in your life shared with you?

KEEP TRYING ALWAYS

In Every Corner, the string symbolizes the wisdom we've passed traditions and knowledge through generations.

What wisdom has an important woman in your life shared with you?

-never depend on a man.
-RhRh

In Every Corner, the string symbolizes the wisdom we've passed traditions and knowledge through generations.

What wisdom has an important woman in your life shared with you?

Never Give UP!

In Every Corner, the string symbolizes the wisdom we've passed traditions and knowledge through generations.

What wisdom has an important woman in your life shared with you?

Never Trust anyone!
-Mongrana, Sister

In Every Corner, the string symbolizes the wisdom we've passed traditions and knowledge through generations.

What wisdom has an important woman in your life shared with you?

Never stop trying

In Every Corner, the string symbolizes the wisdom we've passed traditions and knowledge through generations.

What wisdom has an important woman in your life shared with you?

Never settle
-Mom

In Every Corner, the string symbolizes the wisdom we've passed traditions and knowledge through generations.

What wisdom has an important woman in your life shared with you?

NEVER TAKE ANGER TO SLEEP WITH YOU.

In Every Corner, the string symbolizes the wisdom we've passed traditions and knowledge through generations.

What wisdom has an important woman in your life shared with you?

Never, ever, ever
PROCASTINATE

In Every Corner, the string symbolizes the wisdom we've passed traditions and knowledge through generations.

What wisdom has an important woman in your life shared with you?