

Black Lives Matter: Hands Up, Don't Shoot

2021

Media: Mixed Media – acrylic, ink, oil enamel spray paint, polyester fleece, crochet thread on canvas

Artist Statement: “Hands Up, Don’t Shoot” became a rallying cry for Ferguson, Missouri residents who took to the streets to protest the fatal shooting of a Black, 18-year-old by a White police officer, Darren Wilson. Witness accounts spread after the shooting stating Michael Brown had his hands raised in surrender, mouthing the words “Don’t shoot”; these were his last words before being shot execution-style. The gesture of raised hands became a symbol of outrage over mistreatment of unarmed Black youth by police.

Image Description: Hands Up, Don’t Shoot is written in large letters made of polyester fleece and quilted through the canvas. Dominant figures of two, large, black fists are raised into the air. The background has bright colors with crochet thread radiating across the canvas representing police lights.