

## **ARTIST STATEMENT**

Laryn Anne Elliott-Langford

In my work I AM SPECIAL, NO YOU'RE NOT, I am directly addressing the grief of losing my father in January of 2024. His death was sudden and unexpected, as was the direction my hands took as I quilted this piece. This work is a representation of my grief and the lifelong continuation of it. In it I used thread to quilt the words I remember him telling me the most, both positive and negative, among other imagery that brings him to mind. Thread as a medium can feel permanent once it is punctured through the fabric, but can easily be ripped out. The scars of where the thread once laid will remain once removed, but the fabric will also forget its place over time, its weave recovering from the holes that the thread left. Thread can be added to it, and I will continue to quilt his words and our shared memories into the piece as time goes on.

The thread is my grief and its evolution. These sewn words can be removed and will unravel someday, as his voice will be forgotten and muffled through time. I may heal from the hurt he caused me, but I will always mourn the great love he had for me. These vulnerable words are not for the viewer to understand; the words are for me to let go of. This quilt may outlive me, and its function will change when it does, just like the legacy of my father will change from my mind to the minds of my children.

This is his living headstone.





