



*The Mariposa Museum & World Culture Center presents*

**THE UNIVERSE CANTICLE**  
Tapestries by the Women of Kopanang

Opening Night Reception  
World AIDS Day  
Monday, December 1, 2014, 6–8 PM

The Center for Spiritual Life at NYU  
238 Thompson Street | Washington Square South

RSVP: [kopanangny@gmail.com](mailto:kopanangny@gmail.com)

*To commemorate World AIDS Day, we encourage you to support the women of the Kopanang Community Trust Project by making a tax-deductible donation on their behalf through the Mariposa, at [www.MariposaMuseum.org/KopanangNY](http://www.MariposaMuseum.org/KopanangNY)*

Whilst the opening night is 1st December, the exhibition will run from 2nd-19th in the Gallery. I will be at the Gallery from 1st-3rd December only.  
Sheila Flynn OP

THE UNIVERSE CANTICLE, TAPESTRIES BY THE WOMEN OF KOPANANG, TO BE EXHIBITED  
AT NYU CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL LIFE

NEW YORK, NY (11/2014) [The Mariposa Museum and World Culture Center](#) announces an exhibit of “The Universe Canticle,” at the Center for Spiritual Life at New York University, 238 Thompson Street, NYC, from Tuesday, December 2 to Friday, December 19, 2014.

“The Universe Canticle” is a series of startling and vivid tapestries that depict the origin of the cosmos, the Earth, humankind and animals, interpreted and embroidered by the [Women of Kopanang](#), a community of women either infected with—or affected by—HIV/AIDS, near Johannesburg, South Africa. While the exhibit has toured four continents, this will be its first showing in New York City. A press preview/reception will be held December 1 from 6–8 p.m.

A Dominican nun, Sister Sheila Flynn has helped members of the Kopanang Community Trust learn to embroider, stitch and bead, thus developing their skills, confidence and empowerment, as well as income. The subject of their master work offers a unique perspective on the evolution of the world, inspired by an unusual blend of contemporary and traditional sources: the writing of Thomas Berry, the American cultural historian and cosmologist; Brian Swimme, professor (California Institute of Integral Studies) of evolutionary cosmology; African folklore and the Bible.

“This folk art is fresh, exciting and provocative,” said Joyce Healy, Board Chair of the Mariposa Museum, and driving force behind the exhibit. “Kopanang welcomes women who have been cast out of their communities due to sickness and helps them develop the skills to create marketable crafts. What a worthwhile cause!”

The Universe Canticle Exhibit is open from 11a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday and is free to the public. The Mariposa Museum can accept online, tax-deductible donations to the Kopanang Community Trust Project ([www.MariposaMuseum.org/Kopanang](http://www.MariposaMuseum.org/Kopanang)).

Located in charming Peterborough, New Hampshire (which inspired Thornton Wilder’s “Our Town”), the Mariposa is a hands-on museum of folk art from around the world. Mariposa fosters multi-cultural engagement through exhibits, diverse performances, films, lectures and celebrations about peoples and cultures in motion, deepening our understanding of our diverse heritage. This year alone, the museum has brought Tibetan monks, Navajo weavers, a Lakota culturalist, a Ugandan children’s choir, and a Latina–early music ensemble to New Hampshire’s rural Monadnock region.

Additional images available upon request.

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I believe some of these may have been in a gathering in Racine years ago.

Barbara