

America in the Making

by Ashna Karpe



"America in the Making" traces America's story across five 50-year chapters, painted directly onto a stars-and-stripes-inspired background of our nation's flag. The journey begins with the Declaration of Independence and the Liberty Bell, moves through Harriet Tubman's fight for freedom under the North Star, and into the long push for equality with the Statue of Liberty welcoming new Americans alongside Susan B. Anthony and the fight for women's vote. The fourth chapter captures a nation testing its strength with Rosie the Riveter representing the homefront during World War II, Jackie Robinson breaking barriers in baseball, and Apollo 11 reaching the Moon. The final chapter looks to where we are now and where we hope to go into the future with Sally Ride as the first American woman in space, honoring medical innovation and surgical pioneers, and drawing inspiration from the digital and technological age as we continue to advance. These five chapters capture small, significant slices of our history and symbolize how far we have come as a nation, while hoping to inspire how far we can continue to go.

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The American Tapestry

by Gabriel Peña



The Adirondack chair celebrates America's semiquincentennial through a vibrant mosaic weaving together the diverse threads of our national identity. Like a quilt passed down through generations, each panel represents a distinct chapter in the American story. Yet together, they form a unified whole.

The design ascends from foundation to aspiration. Innovation anchors the base: the light bulb symbolizing ingenuity, the rocket reaching for new frontiers, and the DNA helix representing scientific advancement. (Also these were American technologies; the editing of DNA using CRISPR is American made.) Middle sections showcase American Industry, natural beauty, and culture — from locomotives that connected a continent to the bison that roamed our plains, from soaring city skylines to the rose representing growth and resilience. (The bison is the national mammal, and the rose is the national flower.) The eagle at the crown embodies freedom and strength, while the flag unifies all elements beneath its stars and stripes. Star quilts and geometric patterns frame the composition, echoing traditional American folk art and the patch work diversity that defines our nation. This chair invites viewers to sit within the American Experience.

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Made of Many

by Debbie Guelzow



Made of Many celebrates America as a nation shaped by countless people, cultures, communities, and stories. Each individual brushstroke is unique in color, shape and texture, yet together they create a vibrant, unified composition. A delicate gold line weaves in and out of the design, symbolizing the connections that bind our individual stories together. Like the country itself, the finished work is not defined by an single mark/brushstroke — it's all about the beauty that is created when many become one.

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