

TOP CENTER



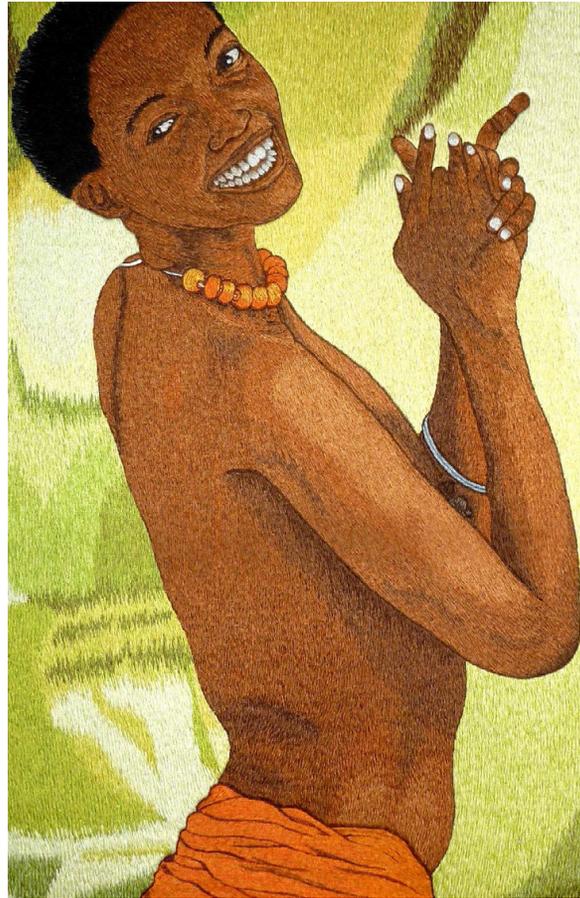
## Engaging Patrons Who Want More from an Exhibit

Our mission is to exhibit these works in galleries throughout the U.S. By offering selected works for sale in America we can support the women of Savane Rutongo. As these museum quality embroideries become available they can be purchased at fair-market prices set by the Savane Rutongo workshop. Their message of peace and prosperity through hard work can be shared with every patron. Book an exhibit for your museum or gallery and give your patrons a unique glimpse into Rwandan life through this phenomenal, one-of-a-kind artwork.

The exhibition can reach and inspire patrons who are more than just art lovers. Anyone who works with their hands, painters, sculptors, engravers and home crafters will appreciate the fine detail of every piece. It will appeal to people of all ages who are concerned with helping others less fortunate, learning about other cultures and experiencing a different way of life. This exhibit is living proof that you can make something from nothing, that there is life after war and peaceful reconstruction is possible anywhere.

Of course, there is the simple elegance and beauty of the embroidery. Masterpieces all on their own this exhibit has broad appeal. Give your patrons a unique glimpse into Rwandan life through this phenomenal, one-of-a-kind artwork.

BACK



**To book** for Pax Rwanda Exhibition: The Embroideries of the Women of Savane Rutongo-Kibuye for your museum or gallery and please **go online** to: [www.rutongoembroideries/contact](http://www.rutongoembroideries/contact)

Strike a chord with patrons who care about the poor, women in poverty and inspirational recovery:

**Contact Juliana Meehan** to enquire about exhibiting this event by:

**Telephone:** (201) 968-1338 OR

Email: [RutongoArts@optimum.net](mailto:RutongoArts@optimum.net).

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## Healing the Scars of War through the Elegance of Embroidery Exhibition

Living in the West, it is easy to turn our faces from the horrors of war, genocide and deep poverty. We have the luxury of changing the channel or turning a page. What if war came to your door step and took everyone and everything you had? How would you cope? How would you live? What could you do?

In a new and exciting exhibition by Juliana Meehan, we find some real answers to these questions. It is an exhibition like none other. However, it is not a morbid display of war and does not dwell on the misery of shattered lives. Rather, it shows how a small group of women, who had war and genocide thrust upon them, chose to make something of beauty to help them survive and live again. These women, former tribal enemies, chose to live and work together to bring peace and a meager living to their children, and what is left of their families. It is their wish to share, not only the beauty of their work, but the inspiration of what peace can accomplish in our lives. Announcing:

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**Pax Rwanda: The Embroideries of the Women of Savane Rutongo-Kibuye**

This is a story about reconstruction, reconciliation, and the desire for peace. Pax Rwanda or “Peace Rwanda” exhibits the embroideries of Savane Rutongo-Kibuye, which were created by a group of Rwandan women living in the aftermath of the 1994 genocide of Hutus against the Tutsis. Each day these women meet in a dilapidated building and work together to create some of the most intricate embroidery ever seen. They live in the village of Rutongo near Rwanda’s capital, Kigali. Formerly from rival tribes, these incredibly strong women decided to make their own peace, “Pax Rwanda”, inspiring the next generation to work together for a better life.

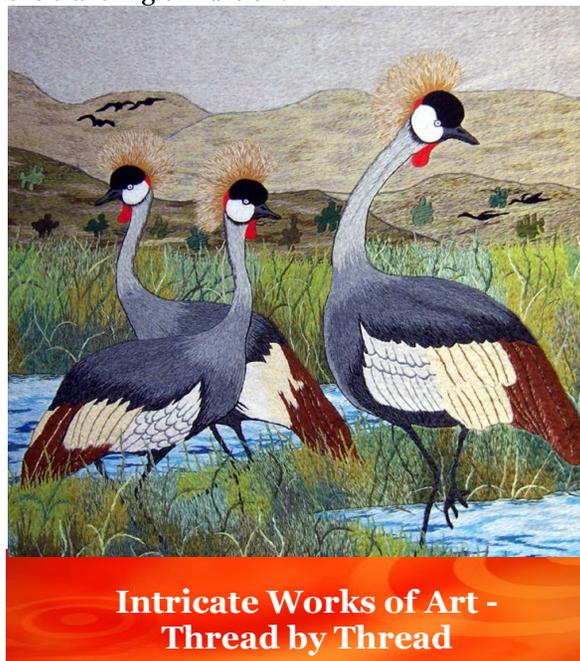
They call themselves “Savane Rutongo” and “Savane Kibuye” from a combination of names of their village (Rutongo and Kibuye) and “Mode Savane,” the name of the shop of their founder, Christiane Rwagatare.

**Christiane Rwagatare – Leading the Way**

Christiane is a native Rwandan who spent most of her early years living in the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire) after her family escaped from the many brutal conflicts in Rwanda. Later she attended college in Romania, earned a Business Degree and learned the art of European embroidery as a hobby, and way to earn extra money.

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After the 1994 genocide, Christiane returned to Rwanda and opened Mode Savane, where she sold local handicrafts and custom tailoring to Kigali residents and tourists. It was here that she met the women of Rutongo who were trying to earn a living by embroidering small linen items. Recognizing their skill, Christiane organized the group so that they could create larger and more valuable pieces than they could make individually. “Savane Rutongo” was born. Today these award winning embroideries, made in the Savane Rutongo workshop, are available for sale and on display at the traveling exhibition.



**Intricate Works of Art - Thread by Thread**

These beautiful embroideries begin as an idea, sketched on unbleached cotton fabric by Christiane Rwagatare. The motifs depict everyday life in Rwanda featuring scenes of the local culture, animals and people. Once the cloth has the final design penciled on, the individual artisans of the Savane Rutongo-Kibuye workshops choose the rich vibrant colors, flowing textures, shading, and stitching techniques that will eventually tell the story. Using a single needle the artist will combine three different colored threads to create a unique subtle style of coloring and shading not found in traditional embroidery. It must be seen up close to be truly appreciated.

INSIDE RIGHT

From individual grains to patterns on a giraffe, each hand-made stitch, every colored thread is carefully chosen to create incredibly intricate works of embroidery that range in size from 17” x 20” to as large as 57” x 51”. To create just one piece takes weeks of patient, passionate love for the art and pride of workmanship that is rare anywhere in the world today.

**Museum Quality Embroideries That Deserve Recognition**

These women, self-taught artisans of the Savane Rutongo, would like to share with the world what they have created with their bare hands. Juliana Meehan is the curator of the exhibit, **Pax Rwanda: Embroideries of the Women of Savane Rutongo-Kibuye**. These museum quality embroideries have been featured at the [Museum of African Art of the SMA Fathers in Tenafly, NJ](#); [The Textile Museum in Washington, DC](#); [The Puffin Foundation in Teaneck, NJ](#); and [other art spaces](#). Selected works are even available for sale to help support these incredible women.

The Women of Savane Rutongo-Kibuye truly want to encourage and inspire others that they can create something beautiful with a little help, peace and cooperation.

