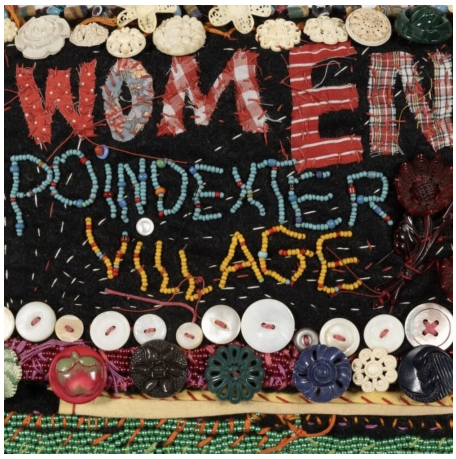
AIR MAIL
FOR THE WORLD TRAVELER

Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson: Beaded and Bound

Celia McGee – November 2026





Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson, *Women in Poindexter Village, Button Beaded Book*, 1989, Buttons, beads, thread, ink, paint, and fabric.

When: Nov 20, 2026 – Jan 16, 2027
Where: Fort Gansevoort 5 9th Ave, New York, NY 10014

The category-defying artist Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson felt called to travel the world in pursuit of knowledge and wonder. But she always returned home to Columbus, Ohio, the state where she was born, like Toni Morrison, into a family bearing scars and stories carried up from the South. While Morrison funneled the weight of the past into singular fiction, Robinson worked it into a folk cosmos elaborately fabricated from textiles she embellished with intricate beading and button work, sculptural embroidery, nature's found objects, and trails of mysteriously glittering adhesives, producing forms as small as miniature dolls and as imposing as storybooks sewn from fabric that sometimes open up into scrolls several yards long. Twenty-five of such narrative artifacts, along with a selection of Robinson's talisman-like doll figures, on horseback and off, are on display at Fort Gansevoort, in a show called "Beaded and Bound." Her materially soft, clear-eyed world view is written in thread and magical thinking in such book titles as *Themba: A Life of Grace and Hope* (c. 1996) and *Hymn to Neruda's Journey to Macchu Pichu* (created in 2004, the year she won a MacArthur award), and stayed with her until her death in 2015. Robinson's work is admired up and down the art world ladder. Jesse Erickson, the Morgan Library's Astor curator of printed books and bindings, is a scheduled speaker for the show's opening on November 19. Toni Morrison wrote in *Jazz*: "What's the world for you if you can't make it up the way you want it?"