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Quilting Women's Power: The Practice of Community Arts in Hong Kong

My paper attempts to re-validate the unique, yet forgotten social contributions of marginalised and working women to their communities in the capitalist society of Hong Kong. In the era of globalisation, it is an engaged investigation as to how disenfranchised women workers do and can renegotiate their identity, reclaim their dignity and regenerate social power through action processes. Adopting a post-structuralist and feminist position, I will suggest creative transformation based on the culture of community development, the aesthetic labours of women, and representational strategies to negotiate power and contribute to a politics of recognition. The data includes stories of women with different residential histories in Hong Kong who came together to re-use their sewing skills, an asset developed during the industrialization period, in making the public ***“quilt of rainbow power”*** which is composed of superfluous fabrics. The implications for participation and change through the cultural practices will be discussed.