

I recently went on tour with Marriage Records as part of the Thanksgiving Bitches Is Lord band. Some of Adrian's new songs refer to the need for a new flag and to burning flags in the gas station bathrooms of Texas.

This made me reflect on the fact that many of my American friends have become ashamed of their flag and of what it has come to represent, especially in the last three years when it seems it has become a symbol of pro-war sentiments.

A similar issue can be found in France where the national flag is being used by the Front National, the extreme right party, as its emblem.

The tones of red and blue are quite dramatic, aggressive, and call for attention, even more so in our modern times when flags are printed on shiny plastic materials and cheap imported dyed cottons. I remember seeing an old hand-made flag and being so pleased with the colors' more subtle qualities.

This aesthetic aspect is also present in the French flag, which shares the exact same colors, red, white, and blue, except that they are always presented as "blue, white, red", with each color representing a value: liberty, equality, fraternity.

Upon returning from tour, I set off to make a new version of the American flag which would be soft to the eyes and the heart.

While coming up with different fabric and color ideas, I read postcards that my great-grandfather had sent home during World War I. I was particularly touched by one of them in which he asked his wife to send a photo of her with her hair down and wearing the dress he liked so. His request was small, almost cute, and yet one could tell how important it was to him. It reminded me of how, when faced with horrific human conditions, sometimes something as simple as the photo of a loved-one or a familiar piece of fabric will give us the strength needed to go on.

And so as I built my flag, I put myself in the place of the soldier's wife who puts together a blanket for her sweet as he gets ready to go to war. She uses a wool army blanket to keep him warm, and quilts in the American flag as a symbol of what he is fighting for. To make sure that during dark times he will have a tactile object to make him feel at home and close to her, she sews together intimate fabrics which represent their union.