FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Joanne Rogers | CEO/Curatorial Director Joanne@nineeighteennine.com
Cheryl Edmunds | Co-Curator EdmundsArtStudio@gmail.com

HANDS MAKING LIGHT

Textile Artist Edith Younger Edmunds, 100, Featured at Nine Eighteen Nine Studio Gallery

"... even in the darkest times, there were hands making light." *- Edith Younger Edmunds, 2026*

Charlotte, NC — February 2026 — **Nine Eighteen Nine Studio Gallery** proudly presents **HANDS MAKING LIGHT**, a month-long exhibition celebrating the life, legacy, and luminous artistry of textile artist **Edith Younger Edmunds** at age 100. On view throughout the month of February, the exhibition is curated by Charlotte's visionary arts advocate **Joanne Rogers** and mixed-media artist **Cheryl Edmunds,** co-curator.

Nine Eighteen Nine Studio Gallery is a private venue providing affordable workspace, support and representation for emerging fine artists located at 700 North Tryon Street in Charlotte, North Carolina. Originally created by founder Joanne Rogers in 2019 to serve as platform from which to educate, empower and showcase artworks from underrepresented artists, Nine Eighteen Nine has grown into an organization focused on using art and arts programming to connect cultures, strengthen communities and celebrate diversity.

Radiating explosive color, symbolism, and cultural memory, *HANDS MAKING LIGHT* showcases Edmunds' powerful storytelling through cloth—works that illuminate history, resilience, and ancestral knowledge passed down through generations. Central to the exhibition is Edmunds' iconic Underground Railroad wall hanging, featured on the cover of her award winning, bestseller *Secret Stitches: An Underground Railroad Activity Book for Children and Adults*. The piece highlights ten primary quilt codes believed by some scholars to have communicated warnings, directions, and messages of hope to enslaved people seeking freedom prior to Emancipation.

Also featured is Edmunds' celebrated Monkey Wrench quilt, which appeared on the cover of *Lynchburg Living Magazine's* 2025 Arts Issue. Together, these works reflect the artist's mastery of textile language and her lifelong commitment to preserving African American history through visual form.

The exhibition culminates on February 28 with a special artist presentation and book signing, offering audiences a rare opportunity to engage directly with Edmunds and hear her reflections on quilting, history, and creative longevity.

Edith Younger Edmunds created her first quilt at the age of seven, seated at a treadle sewing machine beside her twin sister, Earle. More than a century later, she continues to sew daily—an enduring practice that embodies the spirit of *HANDS MAKING LIGHT*, where craft becomes devotion and creativity becomes illumination.

HANDS MAKING LIGHT invites the public to witness how hands guided by memory, faith, and tradition can transform fabric into history—and light into legacy.

Exhibition Dates: Sunday, February 1– Saturday, February 28
Exhibition Hours: 11-3 o'clock, Tuesday-Saturday; 12-3 o'clock, Sunday
Location: Nine Eighteen Nine Studio Gallery, 700 N. Tryon Street, Charlotte, NC
Public Events: February 28, 2-5 o'clock

Artist Presentation | 2-3 o'clock followed by Book Signing & Reception