FEbruary 7, 2008

EXHIBITION FACT SHEET

Title: Wild by Design: 200 Years of Innovation and Artistry In American Quilts

When: January 20–March 16, 2008

Description: Far from simple exercises in geometric patterning, the 25 quilts in this exhibition represent a free-wheeling tradition in which improvisation, asymmetry and experimentation are the norm. Selected from the collection of the International Quilt Study Center by Janet Berlo, professor of art history at the University of Rochester, these quilts explore the once-radical proposition that some 19th-century American women were “painting with fabric.” Ranging in date from ca. 1825 to 1999, the quilts are by artists known and unknown.

Companion show: Michael James: Reinventing Quilts in a Digital Age brings together seven highly original works by one of the country’s pre-eminent contemporary quiltmakers.


Preview party: Saturday, January 19, 8–11 pm

Programs: These include three lectures (January 20; February 2 & 3), a teachers’ inservice (January 23), a family day (February 10), and a series of Creative Workshop classes.

See attached release or visit http://mag.rochester.edu/calendar.

Credits: Wild by Design was organized by the International Quilt Study Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In Rochester, it is underwritten by Lynne Lovejoy. Reinventing Quilts in a Digital Age is sponsored in part by the Humanities Project at the University of Rochester, with additional support from the Gallery Council. MAGnificent Inspiration: The Art Quilt is sponsored by the Gallery Council and underwritten by Carol Crossed and the Gouvernet Arts Fund of The Community Foundation.

Hours/admission: Open Wednesday–Sunday 11 am to 5 pm and until 9 pm on Thursdays. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays. Admission is $7; college students with ID and senior citizens, $5; children 6–18, $3. Always free to members, UR students, and children 5 and under. Reduced general admission, $3, Thursdays from 5–9 pm, made possible by the Democrat and Chronicle/Gannett Foundation, with additional support from ExxonMobil Chemical Company, Thomson West and Monroe County.

Information: Shirley Wersinger 585.276.8935 / swersinger@mag.rochester.edu
Larissa Masny (585) 276-8934 / lmasny@mag.rochester.edu.


My Crazy Dream (Mary M. Hernandred, Boston and Haverhill, MA, 1877–1912). International Quilt Study Center, Ardis and Robert James Collection.

Painted Canyon (Katie Pasquini Masopust, Santa Fe, NM, 1999). International Quilt Study Center, gift of Ardis and Robert James in honor of Dean Emeritus Karen Craig.
“WILD BY DESIGN” EXPLORES 200 YEARS OF AMERICAN QUILTS
Nationally Touring Exhibition Opens January 20 at MAG

ROCHESTER, NY — Wild by Design: 200 Years of Innovation and Artistry in American Quilts, a nationally touring exhibition, opens January 20, 2008 at the Memorial Art Gallery and remains on view through March 16.

Far from simple exercises in geometric patterning, the 25 quilts in this exhibition represent a free-wheeling tradition in which improvisation, asymmetry and experimentation are the norm. Selected from the collection of the International Quilt Study Center by Janet Berlo, professor of art history at the University of Rochester, these quilts explore the once-radical proposition that some 19th-century American women were “painting with fabric.” Ranging in date from about 1825 to 1999, the quilts are by artists both known and unknown, all of whom share an essential quality—the desire to push the boundaries of their medium in their own time.

“Quilts are iconic in our American heritage,” says Berlo, “precisely because they represent so many things to so many people. As symbolic objects, quilts give shape to an idealized story about American ingenuity and self-sufficiency in general, and female frugality, secrecy, originality and artistry, in particular.”

Wild by Design was organized by the International Quilt Study Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In Rochester, it is underwritten by Lynne Lovejoy.

Also on view

Michael James: Reinventing Quilts in a Digital Age brings together seven quilts by one of the pre-eminent contemporary quiltmakers in this country. In recent years, Michael James has been experimenting with the challenging process of designing and printing fabric patterns digitally before piecing and quilting in the traditional manner. Highly original and labor-intensive, these quilts explore the double meaning of “digital” by combining the computer and the artist’s hand. On view January 20–March 16, Reinventing Quilts in a Digital Age is sponsored in part by the Humanities Project at the University of Rochester, with additional support from the Gallery Council.

MAgnificent Inspiration: The Art Quilt is also on view January 20–March 16. This interpretive quilt show and sale brings together 36 quilts by 30 area quilters, whose wall-hung art quilts (approximately 20 x 22 in.) respond to works in the Gallery’s permanent collection. The quilts will be displayed next to their sources of inspiration and offered for sale at the show’s end through the Gallery Store. MAgnificent Inspiration is sponsored by the Gallery Council and underwritten by Carol Crossed and the Gouvernet Arts Fund of The Community Foundation. Sale profits will be shared by the artist and MAG.

Above: Michael James, Home Economics (2005). Racine Art Museum, WI.
Right: This quilt by Carol Taylor of Pittsford was inspired by Sunset Scene, by Tiffany Studios.
Programs and events
These include a preview party (January 19); lectures by artist Michael James (January 20) and *Wild by Design* curator Janet Berlo (February 3); a lecture and luncheon featuring quilt collector and historian Jonathan Holstein (February 2); a teachers’ inservice (January 23); a family day (February 10); and a series of Creative Workshop art and art history classes.

See attached release or visit [http://mag.rochester.edu/calendar](http://mag.rochester.edu/calendar).

Exhibition Catalog
A fully-illustrated softcover catalog is available at the Gallery Store for $35. The popular catalog, which has been out of print for several years, is being reissued for the Memorial Art Gallery and subsequent venues of *Wild by Design* by the International Quilt Study Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in association with University of Washington Press.

Hours & admission:
Open Wednesday–Sunday 11 am to 5 pm and until 9 pm on Thursdays. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays. Admission is $7; college students with ID and senior citizens, $5; children 6–18, $3. Always free to members, UR students, and children 5 and under. Reduced general admission, $3, Thursdays from 5–9 pm, made possible by the Democrat and Chronicle/Gannett Foundation, with additional support from ExxonMobil Chemical Company, Thomson West and Monroe County.

Press contacts
For more information, call the public relations office at 585.276.8935 (Shirley Wersinger) or 585.276.8934 (Larissa Masny).
EXHIBITION PREVIEW PARTY:
Wild by Design: 200 Years of Innovation and Artistry in American Quilts

Saturday, January 19, 8–11 pm (Patrons 6–8 pm)
MAG supporter members and above free; associate members $10; non-members and guests $16; advance tickets required*
Party sponsored by the Democrat and Chronicle and First Niagara Bank

See how American quiltmakers from the past two centuries have expressed themselves through color and pattern, then enjoy live music and entertainment in four areas of the Gallery:

• In the M&T Ballroom, dance to funk, soul, rhythm and roll performed by the Half Ton Horns.
• In the Vanden Brul Pavilion, jam to jazz standards with the Steve Greene Trio.
• In the Auditorium, sit back and enjoy Cindy Miller’s singing impressions of such musical greats from Judy Garland, Julie Andrews and Barbra Streisand, as featured in the show “I’ve Got the Music in Me.”
• In the Fountain Court, enjoy a change of pace with the Nazareth College Bach Children’s Choir.
• Help yourself to munchies, or purchase cocktails, coffee and decadent desserts served by our own Cutler’s Restaurant.

* For recorded information call 276.8901. Tickets for nonmembers only are also available at Wegmans Customer Service Counters (surcharge applies).

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PROGRAMS AND EVENTS
Wild by Design: 200 Years of Innovation and Artistry in American Quilts

LECTURES

Michael James
Sunday, January 20, 3 pm, auditorium / free with Gallery admission
“Material Response.” Art quilter Michael James speaks on his work over the last 35 years, particularly the years since 2002, when he turned to digital technology to create his fabrics. James earned an MFA in painting and printmaking from RIT and is today Ardis James Professor in the Department of Textiles, Clothing and Design at the University of Nebraska Lincoln. Seven of his quilts are on view in a companion show to Wild by Design.
Cosponsored by the Memorial Art Gallery, the UR Department of Art and Art History, and the UR graduate program in Visual and Cultural Studies.

Janet Berlo
Sunday, February 3, 3 pm, auditorium / free with Gallery admission
UR professor of art history Janet Berlo gives an illustrated lecture on “American Quilts as American History: The Lives and Works of Five Quilters.” Berlo is co-curator and catalog co-author of Wild by Design and an accomplished art quilter whose work is featured in MAGnificent Inspiration.

LECTURE / LUNCHEON

Jonathan Holstein
Saturday, February 2, 11:30 am
$35 includes lecture and luncheon catered by Cutler’s Restaurant (event patron $50)*
At this special event, Jonathan Holstein will construct a lecture from quilts brought in by members of the audience. A nationally known quilt collector, historian and author, Holstein was co-curator of the Whitney Museum’s landmark 1971 exhibition of 62 pieced quilts. In 2003 he donated his major collection of than 400 quilts to the University of Nebraska Foundation.
Sponsored by the Gallery Council; Jonathan Holstein’s honorarium underwritten by Deborah Ronnen Fine Art.

* For tickets and information call 276.8910.
BLACK HISTORY MONTH FAMILY DAY
Sunday, February 10, noon–5 pm
Free admission

This annual event features music and dance performances, storytelling, art activities and tours of Wild by Design.

*Sponsored by Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics, a Johnson & Johnson company, and the Marie C. & Joseph C. Wilson Foundation.*

GUIDED EXHIBITION TOURS
Sunday, January 20, 1, 2 and 3 pm
Fridays, January 25–March 14, 2 pm
Sunday, January 27–March 16, 1 pm

*Free with Gallery admission*

CREATIVE WORKSHOP ART & ART HISTORY CLASSES
To celebrate Wild by Design, the Gallery’s Creative Workshop will offer a four-part art history course led by Roberta Schwartz (“Broadening the Boundaries of Quiltmaking”) on Wednesday mornings or evenings starting January 16; an all-day workshop with art quilter Jeanne Raffer Beck on February 8; and a variety of semester-long and two-part fiber courses.

*For a free course catalog, call 276.8959 or visit mag.rochester.edu/creativeworkshop.*
Wild by Design: 200 Years of Innovation and Artistry in American Quilts
January 20–March 16, 2008

Checklist

Maker unknown
Nine Patch, Sheepfold Variation
ca. 1825–45
Possibly made in PA
International Quilt Study Center,
Ardis and Robert James Collection

Maker unknown
Lone Star, ca. 1850–60
Possibly made in Eastern PA
International Quilt Study Center,
Ardis and Robert James Collection

Maker unknown
Mariner’s Compass, ca. 1850–70
Probably made in PA
International Quilt Study Center,
Ardis and Robert James Collection

Maker unknown
Wild Goose Chase Variation, ca. 1850–70
Possibly made in New York
International Quilt Study Center,
Ardis and Robert James Collection

Maker unknown
Princess Feather Sampler, ca. 1860–80
International Quilt Study Center,
Ardis and Robert James Collection

Maker unknown
Delectable Mountains Variation
ca. 1865–85
Probably made in Lancaster County, PA
International Quilt Study Center,
Ardis and Robert James Collection

Maker unknown
Log Cabin, Pineapple Variation, ca. 1865–85
Possibly made in OH
International Quilt Study Center,
Ardis and Robert James Collection

Mary M. Hernandred Ricard
American, 1838–1915
My Crazy Dream, 1877–1912
Made in Boston and Haverhill, MA
International Quilt Study Center,
Ardis and Robert James Collection

Maker unknown
Log Cabin, Pineapple Variation
ca. 1880–1900
Probably made in PA
International Quilt Study Center,
Ardis and Robert James Collection

Wini Austin
American, dates unknown
(Top made by Wini Austin; quilted by
Robert M. Jemison in 1997)
Log Cabin, Courthouse Steps Variation
ca. 1920–50
Made in Holt, AL
International Quilt Study Center,
Robert and Helen Cargo Collection

Unknown Amish maker
Diamond in the Square, ca. 1925–45
Possibly made in Lancaster County, PA
International Quilt Study Center,
Ardis and Robert James Collection

Maker unknown
Schoolhouse, ca. 1925–45
Possibly made in Tennessee
International Quilt Study Center,
Ardis and Robert James Collection

Maker unknown
Dogwood Blossom, ca. 1930–40
Probably made in Midwest
International Quilt Study Center,
Ardis and Robert James Collection

Lureca Outland
American, born 1904
P Quilt, ca. 1970–80
Made in Green County, AL
International Quilt Study Center,
Robert and Helen Cargo Collection

Mary Maxtion
American, born 1924
Broken Stone Eye, ca. 1980–95
Made in Boligee, Green County, AL
International Quilt Study Center,
Robert and Helen Cargo Collection

Mary Maxtion
American, born 1924
Pig Pen Stars, ca. 1980–95
Made in Boligee, Green County, AL
International Quilt Study Center,
Robert and Helen Cargo Collection

Mary Maxtion
American, born 1924
Number 41, 1984
Made in Pipe Creek, TX
International Quilt Study Center,
Ardis and Robert James Collection

Elizabeth (Betsy) Cave
American, born 1924
Manhattan Heat Wave, 1987
Made in Mansfield, OH
International Quilt Study Center,
Ardis and Robert James Collection

Terrie Hancock Mangat
American, born 1948
Fireworks, 1989
Made in Cincinnati, Ohio
International Quilt Study Center,
gift of Janis Wetsman

Nora Ezell
American, 1919–2007
Star Puzzle, 1995
Made in Eutaw, Alabama
International Quilt Study Center,
Robert and Helen Cargo Collection

Katie Pasquini Masopust
American, born 1955
Painted Canyon, 1999
Made in Santa Fe, NM
International Quilt Study Center,
gift of Ardus and Robert James in honor of Dean Emeritus Karen Craig
Michael James: Reinventing Quilts in a Digital Age
January 20–March 16, 2008

Checklist

Michael James (American, born 1949)

*Abstraction No. 5: Crevasse*, 2003
Digitally-developed and digitally-printed cotton, reactive dyes, machine-pieced and machine-quilted
Collection of the artist

*Alcove*, 2005
Digitally-developed and digitally-printed cotton, reactive dyes, machine-pieced and machine-quilted
Collection of the artist

*Home Economics*, 2005
Digitally-developed and digitally-printed cotton, machine-pieced and machine-quilted
Racine Art Museum, Racine, WI

*Magic Carpet (Wall Series No. 5)*, 2004
Digitally-developed and digitally-printed cotton, reactive dyes, machine-pieced and machine-quilted
Collection of the artist

*Momentum*, 2003
Digitally-developed and digitally-printed cotton, machine-pieced and machine-quilted
Collection of the artist

*Scan*, 2001
Hand-painted cotton, machine-pieced and machine-quilted, and embroidered
Collection of the artist

*Sky/Wind Variations II*, 1990
Cotton and silk, machine-pieced and machine-quilted
Collection of the artist
MAGnificent Inspiration: The Art Quilt
January 20–March 16, 2008

List of Exhibitors

Carol Altemus, Bloomfield
Charmaine Babineau, Rochester
Linda Bachman, Fairport
Jeanne Raffer Beck, Canandaigua
   Janet Berlo, Rochester
   Patricia Berardi, Penfield
   Caren Betlinski, Rushville
   Caris Burton, Clyde
   Marcia De Camp, Palmyra
   Margaret Fahey, Fairport
   Patricia Faulkner, Rochester
   Anne Fischer, Springwater
Marty Grasberger, Pittsford (2 quilts)
   Judy Harbison, Rochester
Nancy Hicks, East Rochester (2 quilts)
   Lois Mae Kuh, Penfield
   Laura Linder, Fairport
Joyce Martelli, Rochester (2 quilts)
   Carolyn Maruggi, Pittsford
   Diane Miller, Churchville
   Nancy Murty, Palmyra
Pat Pauly, Pittsford (2 quilts)
Bette Rogers, Honeoye Falls
   Janet Root, Kendall
   Val Schultz, Honeoye
Liz Scott, Dundee (2 quilts)
Barb Seils, Victor (2 quilts)
Jeanne Simpson, Webster
Carol Taylor, Pittsford
Sarah Terry, Hamlin
February 7, 2008

ALSO ON VIEW

LOCKHART GALLERY

Through March 2, 2008

Thinking on Paper: Preparatory Drawings from the MAG Collection

Stuart Davis, Ralston Crawford, David Smith, George Bellows and John Koch are among the artists in this exhibition of preparatory works for some of MAG’s best-known American paintings, sculpture and prints. Included are 22 drawings, three watercolors, a photograph and a maquette for works on view in the main galleries; each is accompanied by a scaled-down color reproduction of the final work.

Presented in honor of the 40th anniversary of the Gallery docents.

LONG-TERM INSTALLATIONS

Protected for Eternity: The Coffins of Pa-debehu-Aset

This interactive exhibit for all ages showcases a rare pair of lavishly decorated nesting coffins that once held the mummy of an Egyptian official. Learn how the coffins were restored, write your name in hieroglyphics and follow the fascinating process of mummification.

This installation is made possible by funding from Dan and Dorothy Gill. Additional support is provided by the Museum Loan Network, a program administered by MIT’s Office of the Arts, funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts; and by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York Council for the Humanities and the Davenport-Hatch Foundation, Inc.

Seeing America

Spanning four centuries and occupying 7,000 square feet on the Gallery’s first floor, this new installation brings together some of the finest works in the collection as it constitutes what chief curator Marjorie Searl calls "a journey in space and time." The 114 works range from treasures of the Colonial era to politically charged mixed-media pieces by contemporary artists.

Italian Baroque Organ

It was national news in 2005 when the only full-size antique Italian organ in North America was installed in MAG’s Herdle Fountain Court. Two years later, the organ—on permanent loan from the Eastman School of Music—has become an integral part of Rochester’s musical life. Weekly Sunday concerts show off the magnificent sound of the instrument. Surrounded by Baroque paintings and sculpture, it’s a feast for the eyes as well. For a concert schedule, visit http://mag.rochester.edu/calendar.