

## A SURVEY OF GEE'S BEND QUILTS

AN ART EXHIBITION DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY FOR UNIVERSITY AND MIDSIZE MUSEUMS.



INWOOD EXISTS TO CHANGE THE WAY THE WORLD THINKS ABOUT ART AND CULTURE.

AS AN ORGANIZATION, WE ARE COMMITTED TO INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS AND APPRECIATION OF THE VERNACULAR VISUAL ARTS OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN SOUTH.

THROUGH RESEARCH, DOCUMENTATION, PRESERVATION, AND EDUCATION, WE BRING THIS VITAL AND QUINTESSENTIALLY AMERICAN ART FORM TO A WIDER AUDIENCE. OUR PROJECTS INCLUDE EXHIBITIONS, PUBLICATIONS, FILMS, MUSIC, LECTURES, EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS, AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH.

## ABOUT GEE'S BEND

(Taken from the introductory exhibition text.)

UNTIL RECENTLY, THE QUILTS OF GEE'S BEND WERE THE EXCLUSIVE PRODUCTS OF THRIFT AND NECESSITY, ASSEMBLED FROM DISCARDED FABRIC SCRAPS AND CREATED TO "KEEP THE CHILDREN WARM." YET THESE INTERNATIONALLY ESTEEMED QUILTS HAVE ALSO BEEN LAUDED IN THE NEW YORK TIMES AS "SOME OF THE MOST MIRACULOUS WORKS OF MODERN ART AMERICA HAS PRODUCED" AND CALL INTO QUESTION THE OLD PARADIGM OF WHAT CONSTITUTES ART.

QUILTMaking HAS BEEN A LONGSTANDING TRADITION AMONG THE WOMEN OF GEE'S BEND. UNTIL THE ROOSEVELT ERA, THE COMMUNITY LIVED IN LOG CABINS WHERE ONE COULD "SEE THE STARS" AND FEEL THE WIND AND RAIN THROUGH GAPS IN THE CEILINGS AND WALLS. AT THE SAME TIME, QUILTMaking WAS A RARE OPPORTUNITY FOR CREATIVE PERSONAL EXPRESSION.

THE 700 RESIDENTS ARE ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY THE DESCENDENTS OF THE ENSLAVED WORKERS OF COTTON PLANTATION OWNER JOSEPH GEE, WHOSE LAND WAS LOCATED IN THE HAIRPIN BEND OF THE ALABAMA RIVER REFERRED TO LOCALLY AS "GEE'S BEND." GEE'S BEND'S RELATIVE ISOLATION LARGELY DUE TO ITS TOPOGRAPHICAL LOCATION HELPED PRESERVE THE LOCAL CULTURE AND TRADITIONS, ALLOWING THEM TO EVOLVE UNIQUELY AND INDEPENDENTLY.

TODAY, THE QUILTERS ARE FREE TO EXPLORE THEIR CREATIVITY AS ARTISTS AND NOT MERELY AS HOMEMAKERS. THE INNOVATIVE PATTERN VARIATIONS, REINTERPRETATIONS, AND ABSTRACT DESIGNS, WHICH ARE ROOTED IN TRADITION ARE VERY MUCH THEIR ORIGINAL ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS.

## ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

THIS NATIONALLY TOURING EXHIBITION, "A SURVEY OF GEE'S BEND QUILTS" FOCUSES ON PRIME EXAMPLES OF ART BY THE INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED QUILTMAKERS OF GEE'S BEND. DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY FOR UNIVERSITY AND MIDSIZE MUSEUMS, THIS EXHIBITION INCLUDES ANYWHERE FROM TEN TO TWENTY-FIVE QUILTS AND UP TO TWENTY PRINTS.

DIVIDED INTO FOUR SECTIONS, THIS SHOW DELVES INTO THE HISTORY, AESTHETICS, ARTISTIC INFLUENCE, AND THE FUTURE OF GEE'S BEND QUILTS. THE QUILTS AVAILABLE FOR THIS EXHIBITION HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY SELECTED TO COMMUNICATE ARTISTIC VARIETY, HISTORY, AND SIMPLE LESSONS OF LIFE. YOUR CURATOR WILL BE ABLE TO SELECT FROM A SIZABLE GROUP OF ARTWORKS IN ORDER TO ASSEMBLE THE SELECTIONS THAT WILL MOST APPROPRIATELY MEET YOUR MUSEUM'S NEEDS AND GOALS.



Flora Moore (b. 1951)  
"One Patch"  
1978  
Corduroy and velveteen  
78 X 98 inches

ARTWORKS ARRIVE READY TO INSTALL, WITH WALL TEXT, LABEL COPY, A CHECKLIST, PUBLIC-RELATIONS MATERIALS, AND RESEARCH MATERIALS. TINWOOD WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AS NEEDED, SHOULD YOU DECIDE TO DEVELOP GALLERY GUIDES, BROCHURES, OR OTHER MATERIALS FOR DISSEMINATION. MOST INSTITUTIONS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR AN EXHIBITION LOAN FEE, SHIPPING COSTS, AND INSURANCE.



Irene Williams (b. 1920)  
Strips  
2003  
Polyester, cotton, wool blend  
85 X 84 inches

Cover, left-most thumbnail image:  
Rita Mae Pettway (b. 1941)  
"Housetop" —fractured medallion  
1977  
Corduroy  
80 X 76 inches



## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

THE ARTISTS AND TINWOOD CURATORS ARE AVAILABLE FOR EVENTS AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS SUCH AS THE FOLLOWING:

- \* ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS
- \* ART-HISTORICAL LECTURES
- \* GALLERY TALKS
- \* QUILT DEMONSTRATIONS/WORKSHOPS
- \* INSTALLATION-ART PROJECTS WITH THE ARTISTS
- \* SINGING CONCERTS
- \* TEACHER WORKSHOPS
- \* DOCENT TRAINING
- \* SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Ruth Kennedy (b. 1926)  
"Pinwheel" —thirty-block variation  
Circa 1950  
Cotton  
83 X 83 inches

## CONTACT

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BOOK THIS EXHIBITION, PLEASE CALL, WRITE, OR EMAIL EXHIBITION CURATOR STEPHANIE BURAK.

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Nell Hall William (b. 1933)  
"My Way" Blocks and Strips  
1971  
Cotton, polyester, nylon knit, corduroy  
83 X 73 inches