



As we prepare to celebrate the Labor Day Holiday, I can't help but think about the relationship between quilts and labor. In past eras, quilts were an essential household item. Quilting was considered a vital skill and a form of domestic labor, and oftentimes it was communal labor as groups gathered to work on large quilting frames, sharing the labor to create warm quilts.

Today, it is often considered a labor of love, and we quilt for enjoyment; it reduces the stresses of modern-day life. Or, as in the quilt above, *Mount Pleasant Miners*, quilts are used to document labor and the lives of those who came before us.

In this issue of *Threads*, we encourage you to document your own treasured quilts and to consider entering our quilt contest "New Quilts From an Old Favorite" with a focus on FOOD, Glorious Food! We're also sharing an interesting fact about one of our Collection quilts and previewing new quilts from the SAQA *Primal Forces: Fire* exhibition opening on September 12.

Sadly, we are preparing to say goodbye to Victoria Findlay Wolfe's *Option Expedition* exhibition on September 9, but not for long, as her quilts will continue to impact students through The National Quilt Museum for years to come. Soon we will be revealing details about our new traveling STEAM "Trunk" that will allow educators to bring the program to their classrooms.

Finally, a reminder that **we will be open on Labor Day** and would love for you to spend this memorable holiday at the museum.

Happy Quilting!

Bonnie

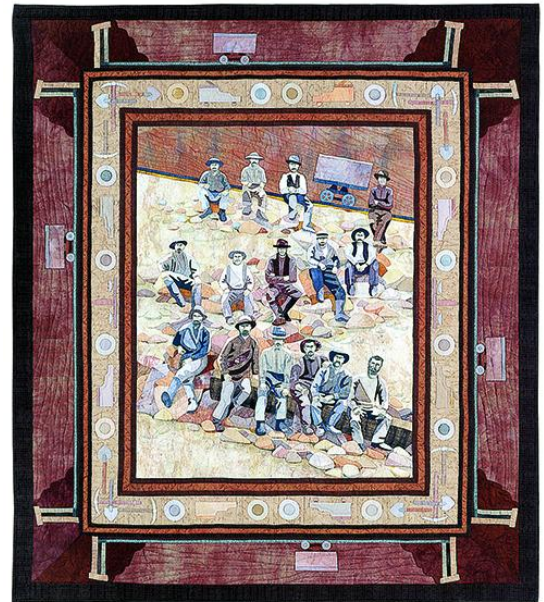


Bonnie Schrock
Executive Director
[Email Bonnie](#)

Our Featured Labor Day Collection Quilt - *Mount Pleasant Miners*

“A borrowed 1870s family photograph was the inspiration for this tribute to my great-grandfather, who worked at the Mount Pleasant Gold Mine for 17 years. I selected certain miners and rearranged them in my own design on the mountainside. I remember visiting the mine when I was a child. The colors of the rocks and mountainside are the colors I remember seeing back then,” by Nancy Brown.

An NQM Collection Quilt, *Mount Pleasant Miners*, was completed in 1993 by Nancy Brown of Oakland, California.



Mount Pleasant Miners
by Nancy Brown

“New Quilts From an Old Favorite” Submissions Open September 2!

Entries for the 2026 New Quilts from an Old Favorite competition and exhibition open on September 2nd! The entry deadline is January 14th, so you still have plenty of time to finish (or start!) a quilt for this exciting opportunity.

The 2026 theme is “Food” - the quilt must be about food in some recognizable way and include an interpretation of a traditional block pattern of your choosing. All quilts must be original designs.

We challenge quilters to create an innovative quilt based on a traditional pattern. Quilts are selected for their excellence in design and techniques, their innovation, and their contributions to an exhibit showing the wide range of designs and styles that the selected traditional patterns and themes can inspire.

To see past winners, read more about the competition, view entry rules, and download the contest brochure, [click here](#).

Collection Quilt Highlight

On the theme of “Food,” let’s take a look at “Fruitorama” made by Francis Abell Brand in 1998. The central image and four smaller images in the inner border, featuring clusters of delicious-looking fruits, are theorem paintings, created with layers of stencils on velvet. The technique became popular in the 1800s as it was taught in girls’ academies. Francis learned the technique while a member of The Historical Society of Early American Decoration.



Fruitorama by Francis Abell
Brand

Kick Up Your Feet and Pop Some Corn

We’re pleased to present the video recording of esteemed Gee’s Bend quilter Mary Margaret Pettway’s interview with Amina Watkins, 1st Vice President of the Paducah-McCracken NAACP. The video was recorded on August 8th at the kickoff reception for the exhibition *Whiles I Yet Live: Matriarchy and Generational Exchange in Gee’s Bend*. It’s a little longer than our typical artist talk videos, as we also share the audience’s questions with you and the whole discussion. So, kick back, relax, make some popcorn, and enjoy the video. We hope you’ll plan a visit to experience the exhibition in person. It runs through December 28, 2025. [Learn more](#).



SAQA Primal Forces: Fire Opens September 12

Fire is the third and final component of SAQA's elemental series, premiering at The National Quilt Museum. Previous exhibitions included *Primal Forces: Earth* and *Primal Forces: Wind*.

In *Primal Forces: Fire*, experience the heat of creativity as talented artists use vibrant colors, intricate patterns, and innovative techniques to capture the essence of fire. The exhibition runs through December 2, 2025. [Learn more.](#)



Firestorm 3 by Brian Dykhuizen

There's Still Time...Register for Quilt Documentation Days

Join us September 12 and 13, for Quilt Documentation Days led by certified appraiser Vickie Coleman of Bluegrass Quilt Appraisal. Participants will receive documentation about their quilt that may include such information as its materials, pattern, creator, and other unique features of the quilt. This documentation can be a valuable resource for understanding and preserving your quilt's history.

[Watch this free on-demand webinar](#) to learn more about the importance of documenting treasured quilts and how the documentation process works.

Registration is required, and space is limited. Don't miss out on this exclusive National Quilt Museum opportunity. [Register here](#).

The project is funded in part through an America250KY Grant made possible through the Kentucky Arts Council and the Kentucky Historical Society.

Victoria Findlay Wolfe's Quilts Recognized by Kentucky Department of Education

The Kentucky Department of Education recognized in their *Kentucky Teacher Bulletin Board*, The National Quilt Museum's new STEAM curriculum that uses Victoria Findlay Wolfe's *Red Dot Series* quilts to teach math, science, and engineering.

Thank you to BFW/Marcum for their sponsorship of this curriculum and to Murray State University for their collaboration and support in developing it. There's still time to see Victoria's exhibition, [Option Expedition](#), which runs through September 9, 2025.



Students and educators utilizing our new STEAM curriculum in our galleries with Victoria Findlay Wolfe's quilts.

Friends of The Museum

Thank you to everyone who renewed their Friend of the Museum Membership in August or became a new member. Your support makes our exhibitions, programs, and events possible.

Would you like your name to be in our next newsletter? [Click this link](#) to renew your membership or become a new Friend of the Museum.

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Susan Stultz
Marcy Taylor
Caroline Tilghman
Jessica Vaughn
Alison Wadsworth
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Current Exhibitions



Red Dot #6 by Victoria Findlay Wolfe

Victoria Findlay Wolfe: *Option Expedition*

Now – September 9, 2025



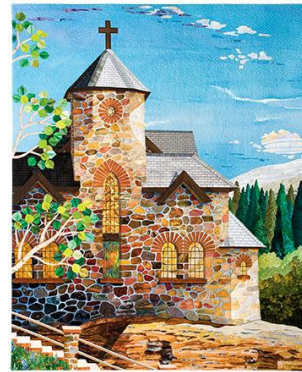
Celebration #2 by Caryl Bryer Fallert-Gentry

Caryl Bryer Fallert-Gentry: *A Life In Color*

Now – October 7, 2025



Marlene Bennett Jones, *Medallion*, 2002
 Photo Credit: Stephen Pitkin, Pitkin Studio
 Courtesy of Souls Grown Deep Foundation
 ©2025 Marlene Jones/Artists Rights Society
 (ARS), New York)



Mountain Chapel by Annette Kennedy

**The National Quilt Museum
 Collection**
 Ongoing

***Whiles I Yet Live: Matriarchy and
 Generational Exchange in Gee's
 Bend***

Now – December 28, 2025

Thank You to Our Sponsors!



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 and
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September 2025

The National Quilt Museum | 215 Jefferson St | Paducah, KY 42001 US

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