



Welcome to another jam-packed issue of Threads! There's so much to share with you this month. Here are a few of the highlights:

Whiles I Yet Live: Matriarchy and Generational Exchange in Gee's Bend opened on August 1st. This long-awaited exhibition features quilts made from the 1930s through 2025. All are invited to a welcome reception and artist talk on the 8th of August at the museum—details to follow.

Our visitors can now enjoy an informative tour of the museum's galleries. The tours last approximately 45 minutes and are held multiple times a day, several days a week. All for only an additional \$10.

Reserve your spot for Quilt Documentation Days, September 12 and 13. Registration is now open, and time slots are filling up fast!

Teachers and parents, this is your last chance to request fabric packets for the 2026 School Block Challenge. This popular competition is open to students in grades K-12 and is generously sponsored by Platinum Sponsor Moda Fabrics and Dippin' Dots.

Curious about where quilter Victoria Findlay Wolfe gets her inspiration? Make sure to watch this month's featured artist talk video, where Victoria shares her secrets.

On a final note, before you dive into this issue of Threads, I want to say thank you. We know that none of this would be possible without you.

Happy Quilting!

Bonnie



Bonnie Schrock
Executive Director
Email Bonnie

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

The title of The National Quilt Museum's exhibition, *Whiles I Yet Live*, is a nod to the 1955 song "Give Me My Flowers" by The Consolers, which inspired the later Christian Gospel performed by Reverend James Cleveland. The hymn was re-recorded by Boykin-based Gee's Bend quilters Mary Ann Pettway, China Pettway, Lorene Pettway, and Nancy Pettway in 2016 and can be downloaded on Spotify.

Located in Alabama's rural Blackbelt, the Gee's Bend community has a rich quilting tradition dating back to the nineteenth century. Celebrated as some of the most significant artistic contributions to American art history, Gee's Bend quilts can be found in the permanent collections of over 40 museums on three continents.

A free program sponsored by the Paducah-McCracken County NAACP will be held at The National Quilt Museum on August 8th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Attendees will have access to the museum's galleries, including the exhibition *Whiles I Yet Live: Matriarchy and Generational Exchange in Gee's Bend*. Amina Watkins, 1st Vice President of the Paducah-McCracken County NAACP, will moderate an artist talk with Gee's Bend quilter Mary Margaret Pettway. The *Whiles I Yet Live* exhibition's Guest Curator, Starasea Nidiala Camara of Brooklyn, New York, will be present, and hors d'oeuvres will be served. The [exhibition](#) runs through December 28, 2025, and is sponsored by the NAACP, Paducah Power



Around the Bend by Andrea Williams

System, and the Paducah Convention & Visitors and Bureau.



Oh My God by DeShuan Smith

The National Quilt Museum Collection Fact

The National Quilt Museum's Collection represents 14 countries. From Japan, we have 16 incredible quilts made by 13 different artists. One of those quilts currently hanging in the gallery is *The Charm of Small Pink Roses* (2012) by Keiko Minami.

Using her graphic design background, Keiko took more than two years to create this stunning hand pieced and hand quilted entry with a combination of diamond and hexagon shapes. Multiple fabrics of varying values of pinks and lavenders create the lush rose blossoms and buds, with extensive use of shadow trapunto in the alternating blocks. The combination of several shades of off-white adds subtle complexity to the background. Although the hexagons appear more prominent, Keiko hopes viewers note the diamonds as well, seeing as this quilt began with a little diamond and "just kept growing."



The Charm of Small Pink Roses (2012) by Keiko Minami.

New Guided Tours

You can now take a guided tour of the National Quilt Museum and learn how our art quilts are made, the details of their unique stories, and what inspired the artists—all led by an NQM staff member or docent!

Guided tours are available on Tuesdays & Wednesdays at 11 am, and Thursdays at 11 am and 1 pm. The tours last approximately 45 minutes. Tours are just an additional \$10 per person (12 & under free with adult). Learn more and purchase tickets with an added tour [here](#).

Register Now! Quilt Documentation Days

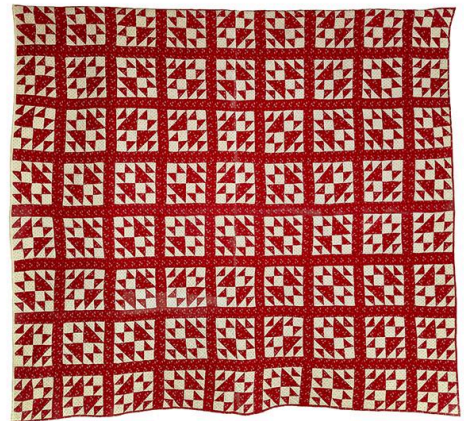
Registration is now open for Quilt Documentation Days on Friday, September 12, and Saturday, September 13, at the museum. Led by certified appraiser Vickie Coleman of Bluegrass Quilt Appraisal, participants will receive documentation about their quilt that may include such information as its materials, pattern, creator, and other unique features of the quilt.

If you have a treasured family quilt, you don't want to miss this opportunity to document and preserve the quilt's story before it is lost to time.

You MUST sign up to participate. Spaces are limited. [Register here](#). This event is brought to you by an American 250 Kentucky Grant through the Kentucky Arts Council and the Kentucky Historical Society.

Love Vintage Quilts?

This one could be yours! [Buy a chance](#) to win this beautiful red and white Fox and Geese pattern vintage quilt. All proceeds benefit The National Quilt Museum.



Watch Victoria Findlay Wolfe's Artist Talk Video

Learn how Victoria Findlay Wolfe's approach to designing eye-popping quilts with bold colors, shapes, and patterns is often inspired by flying 30,000 feet in the air! All this and more can be seen on the video of her artist talk for her exhibition, [Option Expedition](#), which runs through September 9, 2025.



2026 School Block Challenge Now Accepting Fabric Requests

Calling on teachers and parents! We invite you to participate in our 2026 School Block Challenge sponsored by Moda Fabrics, a platinum sponsor, and Dippin' Dots.

The Challenge is open to students in grades K-12 across the country. As part of the challenge, Moda Fabrics generously provides three challenge fabrics that must be included in the block entry. Entries are judged in the following categories: K-4th grade, 5th-8th grade, and 9th-12th grade. Cash prizes are awarded to the Grand Prize and First, Second, and Third Place winners in each category.

To receive the fabrics, teachers/parents need to fill out the [Fabric Request Form](#) on the website. Fabric packets will be ready to ship in August.



Grand Prize Winner "My Cobblestone Cottage" by Jessara Crenshaw

Friends of The Museum

Thank you to everyone who renewed their Friend of the Museum Membership in July 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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Kathleen Vyborny
Joan Walker
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Margaret Williams

Current Exhibitions



Red Dot #6 by Victoria Findlay Wolfe

Victoria Findlay Wolfe: *Option Expedition*

Now – September 9, 2025



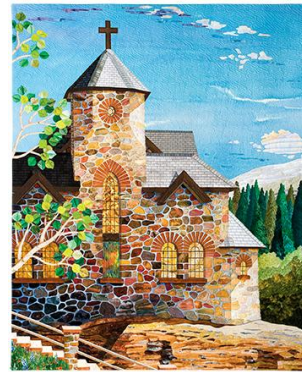
Celebration #2 by Caryl Bryer Fallert-Gentry

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
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 (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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August 2025

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

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