

Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum

Handstitched Worlds

The Cartography of Quilts



June 12 - August 29, 2021

Presenting Sponsor



Summer Sponsor



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Handstitched Worlds

The Cartography of Quilts

Like roadmaps, exhibition quilts reveal places of origin and paths to understanding America's cultural fabric. A quilt-maker's textile and design choices offer insights into the topography of the artist's world and place within it.

The motif in Nora McKeown Ezell's *Star Quilt* evokes the celestial navigation used by slaves on the Underground Railroad. The quilt's traditional eight-pointed Star of Hope pattern is drawn from the artist's knowledge of the history of slavery, Reconstruction, and post-Reconstruction in the Jim Crow South. Woven into quilts are threads of the past and makers' orienteering questions: "Where do I fit into this landscape? Where have I been? Where will I go?"

Quilts spanning the nineteenth to twenty-first centuries from the collection of the American Folk Art Museum in New York City represent a range of materials, motifs, and techniques, including traditional early American examples and contemporary sculptural assemblages. Infused with memory, quilts map out intimate stories and legacies through a handcrafted language of design.



Nora McKeown Ezell, Eutaw, Alabama, *Star Quilt*, 1977, cotton and synthetics; courtesy of the American Folk Art Museum; photo by Scott Bowron

Cover: Artist unknown, Virginia, *Map Quilt*, 1886, silk and cotton velvets and brocade with embroidery; courtesy of the American Folk Art Museum; gift of Dr. and Mrs. C. David McLaughlin; photo by Schecter Lee

Pacific Quilt

A giant, map-like quilt, created by Sarah FitzSimons, a University of Wisconsin-Madison Art Department faculty artist, features varying shades of blue fabric to convey the Pacific Ocean's underwater topography and sewn lines depicting surface currents. FitzSimons notes other commonalities: "Both water and fabric flow. Both cover. Both can conceal, reveal, and shift. *Pacific Quilt* proposes a link between our daily cycle of sleeping and waking, with the rise and fall of ocean tides."



Savor Summer at the Museum

Visit often to experience artwork on view in the galleries, sculpture garden, and grounds. Explore online options, too.

Program Possibilities

Although programs remain curtailed, a few may be offered, modified as coronavirus precautions warrant, for registered participants. Check www.lywam.org/events-calendar/ for details, posted online when available.

Take a Closer Look in Art Park

See what's new in this re-imagined, interactive gallery, offering drop-in family fun. Explore hands-free, visual-engagement opportunities for all ages and I Spy prompts and clues for younger visitors.



Mini Makes includes new miniature versions of additional galleries, museum experiences, and exhibitions created by the staff's Wee Build Workshop along with brief videos.



Makers' Mediums features studio materials and artists' tools, celebrating endless art-medium possibilities.



Night Out @ the Woodson

Visit on first Thursdays this summer when the Museum stays open until 7:30 pm, perfect for evening strolls through the galleries and grounds.

Summer evenings include **Sculpture Garden Yoga**, if weather permits these outdoor-only sessions, led by a 5 Koshas Yoga and Wellness instructor.

5:30-6:30 pm, on first Thursdays:
June 3, July 1, and August 5

Please register at www.5koshasyoga.com/yoga/class-schedule/ and plan to bring and wear face coverings as well as bring mats or blankets. Session will be canceled if weather requires; watch the 5 Koshas Facebook page for updates.



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Stop-by Studio is always open and stocked with Art Kits and books, free to keep or share, to encourage at-home art making and creativity.



Sculpture Seek & Find encourages outdoor quests, using a map with riddles as clues to find six small-scale sculptures on the Museum's grounds.

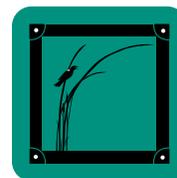
Online Options



Videos Watch Museum videos featuring artists' voices, insights into artworks, virtual programs, webinars, and the Mini Makes series from the Wee Build Workshop.



Activities Explore Art Kits, Activity Guides, Start with Our Art pages, online jigsaw puzzles featuring collection artworks, education resources, Sculpture Seek & Find map, and our weekly blog, Woodson Wanderings.



Collection See collection exhibitions and search collection artworks by artist name, medium, or bird or animal species.



Barry Van Dusen, *Evening on the Bar*, 2020, watercolor on Arches cold press paper

Birds in Art 2021

September 11 – November 28, 2021

From lyrical birdsong to their migratory patterns, birds connect us to the rhythms of life. In its 46th year, this internationally renowned exhibition continually seeks to present the best contemporary artistic interpretations of avian themes.

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Acknowledgments

Handstitched Worlds: The Cartography of Quilts was organized by the American Folk Art Museum, New York and is toured by International Arts & Artists, Washington, D.C.



Wausau Homes is the presenting sponsor of the summer exhibition; 5 Koshas is the summer sponsor. Additional support comes from Jeff and Lori De Lonay, Gwen Gygi, Linda Kocourek, LeeAnn Podruch and David Johnson, and Ron and Mary Retzke. Exhibitions and programs are supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts. Marketing supported in part by City of Wausau Room Tax funds. Support for hands-on art-making supplies comes from Wilmington Trust and the M&T Charitable Foundation.



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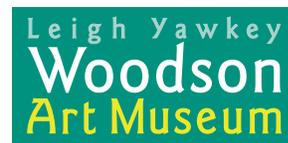
& Share Your Images



Weekly blog Woodson Wanderings

Museum Hours

Tuesday – Friday 9 am – 4 pm
First Thursday of each month 9 am – 7:30 pm
Saturday – Sunday Noon – 5 pm
Closed Monday and holidays, including July 4



Above: Artist Unknown, Minnesota, *Fans Quilt*, 1922-23, rayon, wool, and army uniform wool with embroidery; courtesy of the American Folk Art Museum; gift of Margaret Cavigga

Design: Richard Wunsch, Wausau

700 North 12th Street
Wausau, WI 54403

When planning a visit, check www.lywam.org for updates or call the Museum at 715.845.7010.