Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum

Handstitched Worlds
The Cartography of Quilts

June 12 - August 29, 2021
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.

**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.

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.
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Acknowledgments

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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

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