



Exhibition of Unique Quilts Opens at Susquehanna Art Museum

Harrisburg - The Susquehanna Art Museum (SAM) in Harrisburg today announced the upcoming exhibition, *Quilts 20/20: Traditional Works, Contemporary Art*. This one of a kind exhibition gives visitors a unique look at quilting, both as a fine craft and a fine art. Visitors will see some of the most well preserved antique quilts in the country, as well as contemporary designs that show the most cutting edge techniques used in modern art quilting.

The show opens June 19 and runs through Aug. 30, 2015. It features 20 historic quilts and 20 modern day quilts. Organized by SAM, along with guest curator Pat Pauly, the exhibition examines the historic groundwork for today's works in fiber art while introducing a rich selection of new art quilts for our visitors.

"With this exhibition we challenge the viewers to examine the intersection of tradition and innovation with fine arts and present-day craft," said Lauren Nye, SAM Exhibitions Manager. "The works on view represent the historical roots of handmade quilting, dating back to 1880, as well as the stunning innovations that international artists bring to a contemporary forefront."

The historic quilts come from Lancaster Historical Society and the Pilgrim/Roy collection based out of New Hampshire. It is widely considered the foremost antique quilt collection the country. The designs date back to the late 1800's through the early 1900's.

The contemporary pieces give visitors a look at newer, more modern ways of quilting. Methods include fabric painting, fabric fusion and experimental dyes. The artists represented are some of the foremost in the modern quilting movement including Nancy Crow, Michael James, Jan Myers-Newbury and Dorothy Caldwell. These artists bring new dimension to quilts, which were once seen as functional objects for the home, but are now viewed as works of art on their own.

"Our exhibitions present art from many disciplines to offer our members and patrons perspectives that transcend the commonplace, that inspire us to be more than we are, and that expand our window on the world," said Jack Scott, SAM Interim Executive Director. "This exhibition advances our objective by introducing a contemporary response to a traditional art form with deep roots in our region."

The Susquehanna Art Museum strives to be a cultural anchor for the Central Pennsylvania community in its new location in historic Midtown Harrisburg. Through innovative and engaging exhibitions and experiences for visitors of all ages, SAM inspires life-long learning and community building, both within the walls of the museum and throughout the community. Located at 1401 N. 3rd Street in Harrisburg. SAM is open Tues. through Sat. from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Sun. from 12 p.m. – 5 p.m.

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www.sqart.org/galleries/quilts

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