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**Patchwork Art Form Dazzles as Newark Museum
Turns Spotlight on its Renowned Quilt Collection**

***American Masterpieces Featured in *Patchwork from Folk Art to Fine Art*;
The Global Art of Patchwork: Asia and Africa also Exhibited***

Comprehensive Programs Scheduled to Complement Exhibitions

Exhibitions on view September 14 to December 31

NEWARK, NJ -- Quilts are considered by many to be one of America's great indigenous folk-art forms, but patchwork also has a rich and important place in other parts of the world as demonstrated in a pair of exhibitions opening September 14 at the Newark Museum.

Since purchasing its first quilt in 1918, the Newark Museum has amassed one of the most comprehensive quilt collections in the nation. Drawing 30 magnificent quilts, half by New Jersey artisans, from its rich holdings of more than 150 works, the Museum will showcase the art form in its upcoming feature exhibition, *Patchwork from Folk Art to Fine Art*, September 14 through December 31, 2011. A broader world view of the art form is examined in a small accompanying exhibition entitled *The Global Art of Patchwork: Asia and Africa*. As is traditional with all major Newark Museum exhibitions, a rich and diverse schedule of educational programs and activities are planned throughout the run of the exhibition.

Patchwork from Folk Art to Fine Art explores the evolution of quilts from those created for functional use in the 19th century to breathtaking works of art intended only for display. Woven throughout the exhibition are the stories associated with each quilt, reminding the visitor of the all-important human connection. The exhibition also demonstrates the historical importance of quilts as an "acceptable" means of creative and communal expression during times when women had no public voice and few legal rights.

Patchwork quilts, many of which have never been on public view, range from simple graphic designs pieced together from small geometric patches of silk, wool or cotton, to complex narratives filled with appliqué motifs and embroidered enrichment.

“*Patchwork* offers a rare opportunity for museum goers to view these stylistically and historically important works,” said Ulysses Grant Dietz, Senior Curator and Curator of Decorative Arts Collection, and Curator of *Patchwork from Folk Art to Fine Art*. “This exhibition is a must for those who love textiles, both for their artistic beauty and exquisite craftsmanship. The accompanying exhibition, which takes a global look at the art of patchwork, provides an enriching perspective made possible by the significant global holdings of the Newark Museum.”

Patchwork from Folk Art to Fine Art is presented in four sections: *Making Quilts*, *The Social Fabric of Quilts*, *Quilted Memories*, and *Contemporary Quilts / Cultural Adaptations*.

Making Quilts traces the evolution of quilt making from the early 19th century, when they were made by hand, through the Industrial Revolution and the advent of the sewing machine, to present day. Featured in this section is *Wild Goose Chase (1800-1830)*, the initial acquisition of the Museum’s collection. Produced from homespun wool, this popular pattern of triangular patches evokes the image of flying geese.

The long-standing tradition of quilting requires patience, creativity and skill and usually takes place at a communal or family gathering. *The Social Fabric of Quilts* section explores the familial and communal occasions at which quilts are often created. During the 19th century, quilts were created as part of a new bride’s hope chest. Often, women also created quilts as a means of expressing their political views.

From the 19th century to the present day, a handmade quilt is a highly-valued and cherished gift. *Quilted Memories* exhibits examples of quilts that uniquely memorialize historic and family events for posterity. During the 19th century, the desire to commemorate and memorialize major events influenced the popularity of album quilts. Each block in the album quilt reflected a memory and was signed by one or more people who helped create the block.

The *Hurley Family Album*, exhibited publically for the first time, is one of the Museum’s most important recent acquisitions. Made in 1867 in Wall Township, New Jersey, by the members of a prominent farming family, this is the finest example of its type known today, according to Dietz.

The final section of the exhibition, *Contemporary Quilts / Cultural Adaptation*, showcases the modern day quiltings that are often created and viewed as works of art. The most recent acquisition, from 2006, is entitled *Midtown Direct*, made by Teresa Barkley, a Maplewood resident, who started working on the quilt in 1998. This quilt commemorated the introduction of direct New Jersey Transit train service into Manhattan, an event that transformed New Jersey’s suburbs and had a great impact on the artist’s own daily commute into New York. Since the events of September 11, 2001, the quilt has taken on a darker aspect, becoming a memorial to the World Trade Center towers that had formed part of every New Jersey Transit commuter’s daily life.

Significant contributions and influences made by African-Americans are now being documented as part of the development of the quilt as a distinctly American folk expression,

Dietz said. Research shows that some quilt patterns can be traced back to ancestral African textile design. For example, the striking syncopated design in *Tied Center Medallion* quilt made by an unknown African-American woman in Kansas in the 1920s bears an uncanny similarity of modern geometric painting of the same period and comes from a quilting tradition largely outside of the Euro-American aesthetic.

The accompanying exhibition, *The Global Art of Patchwork: Africa and Asia* features textile-related patchwork traditions outside the world of quilts, including works from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Japan, Korea, India, Nigeria, Sudan and Tibet. Drawn from the Newark Museum's broad collections, the exhibition offers a global perspective for the art of patchwork textiles.

Patchwork from Folk Art to Fine Art Related Programs:

Members Preview Reception

Tuesday, September 13, 6-8 pm

Members of the Newark Museum will kick off the new season by enjoying an exclusive sneak peek of the spectacular *Patchwork from Folk Art to Fine Art* exhibition. The event offers the opportunity to mingle with fellow members, welcome new members, meet our curators and enjoy light refreshments.

To RSVP for this event, or please call 973.596.6550, or email membership@newarkmuseum.org. Not a member yet? Contact the membership department to learn about becoming a member, by calling 973.596.6699 or by email at membership@newarkmuseum.org.

September 27, 10:30-4 pm

The Great Newark Quilt Turning

Fee: \$35 Members; \$50 for non-members. To register for the event, call 973-596-6613 or register on-line at newarkmuseum.org. \$15 optional box lunch available (must be ordered by September 23).

Don't miss this rare opportunity to study and explore 32 quilts from the Museum's collection brought out of storage for this event. With four experts present to reflect upon and discuss the unique pieces, visitors will gain a familiarity with what lies behind the stitches and patterns of these rare masterpieces. For quilters of any caliber and also, for those who simply appreciate impeccable craftsmanship, this occasion is guaranteed to inspire all who attend.

Beginning at 10:30am Ulysses Dietz, Senior Curator and Curator of Decorative Arts will lecture on *Quilts Uncovered* at the Newark Museum. Attendees will then tour the exhibitions, *Patchwork from Folk Art to Fine Art* and *The Global Art of Patchwork* from 11:30-1 pm. After a lunch break the Quilt Turning segment will take place in the Engelhard Court from 2-4 pm.

Explore the Art of Quilts: A Three-Part Series

Join us for a series of film screenings and roundtable discussions with quilt experts, collectors, and artists who will share their stories.

Saturdays: October 15, November 19 and December 3, 1-3:30 pm

Tours of the exhibition, *Patchwork from Folk Art to Fine Art* and a coffee reception will follow each program. Pre-registration required, call 973-596-6613 or register on-line at www.newarkmuseum.org.

Fee:

Series: \$25 for members; \$30 for non-members

Individual Programs: \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members

October 15

Topic: *Patchwork Folk Art or Fine Art?*

Film Screening: ***Stitched***, a documentary film by **Jena Moreno**

A roundtable discussion will follow the film screening with the filmmaker and guest speakers: **Victoria Findlay Wolfe**, artist, President of Bumble Beans Inc., custom quiltmaker and co-founder of the New York Metro Area Modern Quilt Guild; **Luke Haynes**, artist and **Mark Lipinski**, internationally recognized quilt teacher, quilt fabric designer, former Executive editor of *Quilter's Home Magazine* and Emmy nominated talk show pioneer.

Moderator: **Meg Cox**, President of the Alliance for American Quilts

The documentary *Stitched* follows three quilters racing to complete their entries for the International Quilt Festival, the largest quilt show in the nation. The Houston show draws more than 50,000 quilters including three artists: Caryl Bryer Fallert, Hollis Chatelain and Randall Cook who spark hot debates with their groundbreaking work.

Co-presented by the New Jersey State Quilting Guild and the Textile Study Group

November 19

Preview Episode Two of the new nine-part documentary, *Why Quilts Matter: History, Art & Politics* followed by a roundtable discussion with invited guests

The series, coming to some PBS stations this fall, takes the viewer on an amazing journey into the world of quilts revealing their centrality to American culture. Episode Two, *Quilts Bring History Alive* will be the featured presentation.

Guest speakers: Shelly Zegart, distinguished quilt expert, collector and co-founder of the Alliance for American Quilts, one of the founders of the Quilt Index and a founding director of the The Kentucky Quilt Project, Inc. She is the Executive Producer and Host of the nine-part documentary series *Why Quilts Matter: History, Art & Politics*, **Ann Berman**, series writer, author, and journalist, **Susan Ball Faeder**, artist, teacher, designer and business owner of Quilters' Express to Japan, and **Marilyn Henrion**, quilt artist whose work is represented in the Smithsonian Institution's Archives of American Art as well as solo and group exhibitions in museums and galleries throughout the U.S. and abroad.

December 3

Topic: *An Enduring Tradition: African American Quiltmaking*

Film Screening: *The Quiltmakers of Gee's Bend* produced by the Alabama Public Television Company

Co-presented by the Nubian Heritage Quilters of New Jersey

Following the screening of *The Quilmakers of Gee's Bend*, guests will be invited to share stories about themselves, their families and the quilts they have treasured as part of an enduring African American quilting tradition.

This one-hour high-definition film documents a group of internationally-acclaimed black quilmakers from Gees Bend, Alabama. Their work has been hailed by Michael Kimmelman of The New York Times as "some of the most miraculous works of modern art America has produced." *The Quilmakers of Gee's Bend* explores the extraordinary lives, inspirations, and history of these artists. If you would like to bring a quilt to share with the audience, please contact Linda Nettleton at 973-596-6553 to make arrangements.

2011 Fall Series Arts Workshop Special Events Quilt Making Workshops and Quilting Demonstrations

Whether merely a beginner or an experienced quilter, the Museum's workshops challenge students. Learn from the experts to create something beautiful of your own.

October 16

Journalist, author and quilter **Meg Cox**, president of the national non-profit Alliance for American Quilts, will conduct a special workshop entitled *Frida Kahle Patchwork Wall Hanging* on Sunday, October 16 from 10 am to 4 pm; \$81-members; \$90 non-members. Make a small quilted wall hanging using a "center medallion" structure, made from commercial fabric featuring Mexican painter Frida Kahlo. Students will add on to this center image using colorful cotton fabrics, and then embellish the surface with hand and machine stitching, beading and applique. To finish, the small hanging will be tied using embroidery floss. Beginners welcome, but must be comfortable using a sewing machine. Instructor will provide the fabric and embellishments, but students should feel free to supplement with fabric and trims from home.

October 29

Design and color consultant **Barbara Arlen** will conduct a workshop entitled *From Folk Art to Fine Art: Patchwork Possibilities*. Have fun painting or coloring paper with various media. Then collage with, or without, your own fabrics, to create a unique quilt concept that is related to quilts in the Newark Museum's exhibition, *Patchwork from Folk Art to Fine Art*. Later (but not during class), translate these collage design possibilities into your own fabrics and quilts. Not only learn new aesthetic ways to color your fabrics, but, with this simple collage technique, learn to design and create new concepts with fabric! A visit to the exhibit as well as the Museum's modern art collection will enable students to learn more about quilts, paintings and discuss global color combinations, theories and fabrications. All levels are welcomed to attend this workshop on Saturday, October 29, 10 am-4 pm; Member: \$81, Non-member: \$90, Materials: \$20.

October 30

Lisa Shepard Stewart, an award-winning author and designer specializing in the use of African fabrics and world crafting techniques for decorating, sewing, crafts & quilting, will conduct the workshop *African Mosaic Quilting* on Sunday, October 30, 10 am-4pm. This course is designed to give students an easy introduction to quilting along with an appreciation

for African textiles by creating their own wall hanging using the African Mosaic Quilt Kit. The kit contains 200 imported African cotton prints, pre-cut into 2” squares, plus one yard of iron-on backing. By carefully arranging the squares in a blended, color-coordinated manner, students can achieve a beautiful mosaic-style quilt. This class is structured for beginner and intermediate students.

Member: \$81, Non-member: \$90, Materials: \$25

November 5

Explore the exciting dimension, movement and rhythm of quilt making in *Color, Value & Rhythms: The Dynamic Quilt* with **Glendora Simonson** on Saturday, November 5, 10 am–4 pm. Through experiments with color, value, and placement, simple patchwork and appliqué techniques combine to produce dramatic effects. All levels of experience are welcome.

Beginning quilters will learn simplified techniques, while more experienced quilters will explore design possibilities. Tap into personal fabric stashes, spend a day indulging passions for textile artistry and infuse a quilt with a life of its own. The fee is \$81 for members; \$90 for non-members.

December 3 and 4

The Museum’s Art Workshop’s offers *Patchwork Quilting With Recycled Fabric* with **Judy Langille**, Saturday & Sunday, December 3 and 4, 2011, 10 am–4 pm. Students will be able to reuse fabrics from stashes at home to create a simple patchwork quilt. Fabrics may be any material and can be hand-dyed, store bought or from old clothing. Over this two-day class, students will piece together one-of-a-kind quilted tops that demonstrate the beauty of personal touch. Though some sewing machine skills will be helpful, all levels of experience are welcome. Sewing machines are available. The fee is \$153 for members; \$170 for non-members.

To register for an arts workshop, call 973.596.6607 or send an e-mail to smckenzie@newarkmuseum.org.

For more information about other related programs and activities related to the exhibition *Patchwork from Folk Art to Fine Art*, visit newarkmuseum.org.

For dates and times visit newarkmuseum.org or call 973-596-6607.

Quilting Demonstrations by Quilting Guilds

Visitors are invited to watch some of New Jersey’s best quilters. Demonstrations will take place in the Museum’s Engelhard Court at 12:30 pm.

October 23, Quilt Guild of New Jersey

October 30, Brownstone Quilters

November 27, Jersey City Quilters

December 3, Nubian Quilters

December 4, Clifton Quilt Guild

December 30, Garden State Quilters

TOURS: Selected Quilt Masterpieces at the Newark Museum

Wednesdays-Sundays, 2:25-3 pm

Seeking some guidance as you weave through the galleries of *Patchwork from Folk Art to Fine Art*? Join a Special Exhibition Tour to broaden your understanding of this exhibition's treasures. All tours are free with Suggested Museum Admission. Guided viewing for groups of ten or more is also available. For more information, call 973.596.6613 or send an e-mail to groupsales@newarkmuseum.org.

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ABOUT THE NEWARK MUSEUM

The Newark Museum is located at 49 Washington Street in the Downtown/Arts District of Newark, New Jersey, just 3 blocks from NJPAC and 10 miles west of New York City. The Museum is open all year round: Wednesdays through Sundays, from Noon – 5:00 p.m. Suggested Museum admission: Adults, \$10.00; Children, Seniors and Students with valid I.D., \$6.00. Newark Residents and Members are admitted free. The Museum Café is open for lunches Wednesday through Sunday. Convenient parking is available for a fee. The Newark Museum campus, including its collections, facilities, and other resources, is accessible to accommodate the broadest audience possible, including individuals utilizing wheelchairs, with physical impairments, other disabilities, or special needs. For general information, call 973-596-6550 or visit our web site, <http://www.NewarkMuseum.org>.

Newark Museum, a not-for-profit museum of art, science and education, receives operating support from the City of Newark, the State of New Jersey, the New Jersey Council on the Arts/Department of State – a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, the New Jersey Cultural Trust, the Prudential Foundation, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the Victoria Foundation, the Wallace Foundation and other corporations, foundations and individuals. Funds for acquisitions and activities other than operations are provided by members and other contributors.

The Newark Museum is just a few steps from the new NJTransit Light Rail Washington Park Station. Direct connection with the Light Rail at the Broad Street Station and through Penn Station makes the Museum a convenient ride from all points in the region.