



Wisconsin Museum of Quilts & Fiber Arts

*Creating the present . . . Preserving the past . . .
Educating future generations . . .
about quilts and fiber arts
from our 1850s German farmstead
just east of historic downtown Cedarburg*



About the Museum

The Wisconsin Museum of Quilts & Fiber Arts (WMQFA) is the only museum celebrating fiber arts traditions in Wisconsin and is located just east of historic downtown Cedarburg, Wisconsin. The WMQFA is used to:

- Foster and inspire creativity by hosting exhibits of artists from traditional to contemporary techniques;
- Educate children and adults, from beginners to experienced fiber artists, in the time-honored crafts;
- Preserve quilts and other fiber arts items, maintaining our own collection and encouraging others to document their treasures;
- Maintain a library for researchers interested in exploring how quilts and other fiber arts have changed over time.





About the Museum, cont.

History and The Farmstead

The museum's roots extend back to 1988 when a group of quilters in southeastern **Wisconsin founded the Wisconsin Quilt History Project, Inc.**, whose mission was to preserve the history and creativity expressed in quilts through documentation and research.

Since 1988, over 8,000 quilts and their stories have been captured. These records provided the material for an award-winning book, **Wisconsin Quilts: History in the Stitches**, (second edition, 2009).

In 2001, the group purchased the Hoffmann-Boeker farmstead as the future home of a museum dedicated to creating, preserving and teaching fiber arts. The site received Landmark Designation from the City of Cedarburg in 2004.

Situated on the **1850s German, 2.2-acre farm, in August 2011 we opened our new home**, offering 10,800 square feet of space for galleries, lectures, classes, gift shop and more.

The farm includes seven original stone and timber structures including a farmhouse, ice house and summer kitchen/smokehouse /blacksmithery. Many of the buildings have been restored.

WMQFA is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt non-profit organization.



About the Museum



Melissa Wraalstad, Executive Director

“The Wisconsin Museum of Quilts & Fiber Arts has done phenomenal things since opening the doors of the new building,” said WMQFA executive director Melissa Wraalstad. “The museum has welcomed visitors from all over the world to Cedarburg and southeastern Wisconsin and worked with a wide variety of fiber artists. We are excited and proud to be celebrating so much success.”





Awards & Recognitions

- WMFQA was twice nominated for the Governor's Tourism Award for Arts, Culture and Heritage.
- WMFQA is ranked by USA Today as one of the top ten places in the U.S. to see a quilt.
- WMQFA hosted two national conferences specifically because participants wanted to visit our museum.
- Partnership Bank awarded WMQFA its Ordinary People, Extraordinary Citizen Award
- WMQFA launched the Quarantine Quilt project in 2020, collecting over 500 blocks worldwide during the Covid-19 pandemic.





Museum Statistics

- More than 10,000 annual visitors
- 130 Volunteers contributed +9,100 hours of support
- 80% Member retention rate
- Our collection has pieces ranging from 1200 to 2022
- 30+ Adult group tours yearly
- 40+ Adult lectures and workshops each year





Exhibits

The WMQFA is helping keep fiber arts traditions alive by offering several new exhibits each year.

The exhibits contain artwork from our own collection, as well as works from local, national and international exhibits and modern fiber arts rock stars.

EXHIBIT SCHEDULE 2023

Fabulous Fads

February 1 - May 14, 2023

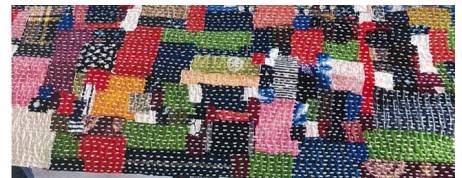
Celebrate fiber art trends and fads throughout history, featuring WMQFA collections and pieces from collector Carol Butzke's private collection



Akiko Ike: Chiku Chiku

May 18 - August 27, 2023

Japanese artist Akiko Ike presents her first solo exhibition in North America



Quilts Japan: The 16th Quilt Nihon

August 31 - November 12, 2023

WMQFA is one of three venues to feature highlights from Quilt Nihon, an international quilting competition in Japan.





Exhibits

Emily Schlemowitz **Senior Curator**

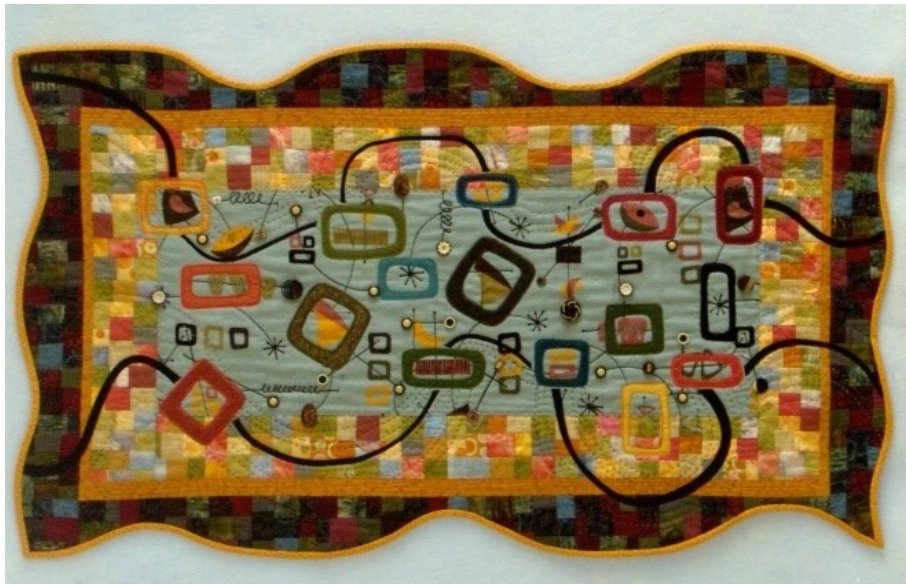
Leading WMQFA's curatorial vision is Senior Curator Emily Schlemowitz, who is responsible for originating four exhibitions annually, cultivating artist relationships and outside partnerships, and working collaboratively to develop integrated programs, lectures, and workshops. A national artist advisory committee, which includes Victoria Findlay Wolfe, Nirmal Raja, and Holly Wong, provides further art-driven guidance to the museum's curatorial mission and brings an artist-centered perspective to our exhibitions and programs, resulting in meaningful connections with artists and art-making communities.



Collections

Our permanent collection features over 2,000 examples of historic and contemporary textiles.

Through display and interpretation we can communicate the importance of fiber art, it's social, artistic and historical value, as well as the stories of the artists to a local, national and even international audience.



Collections



The **Joe and Mary Koval Collection**, 27 vintage quilts and a large collection of 18th and 19th century fabrics. This collection includes a rare and stunning Baltimore Album Quilt, typical of bride's quilts created in 1845.



The **James A. Taylor Coverlet Collection**, 35 hand-woven, 19th Century coverlets, including examples of overshoot, double weave, summer and winter in a variety of colors.



The magnificent **Mariner's Compass Quilt**, created in 2006 by Luella Doss and Moey Anderson and many volunteers, based on a Judy Mathieson design. The quilt recognizes donors, who have collectively raised over \$1.3 million for the new museum opening in 2011.



The **Maggi and David Gordon Collection**, 13 vintage quilts including an Amish Roman Stripe crib quilt and an 1893 Redwork.



A range of other **textiles**, including knitted pieces, lace, embroidered work, vintage clothing, hats and aprons.

A **collection of antique sewing machines** from treadle to featherweight styles.



The **Gross Stevengraph Collection** contains nearly 300 Stevengraphs. Stevengraphs are small silk, Jacquard woven book-marks, pictures, greeting cards and postcards. They were a popular novelty of the Victorian era. The images are minutely detailed, which required a perforated card for each movement of the loom's shuttle. Subject matter includes royalty, political figures, ships, sports and historical events. This collection was generously donated to the Museum in 2014 by Peter Gross. Mr. Gross' parents, Alfred and Florence Gross, started the Stevengraph collection. Peter Gross and his wife continued the collection started by his parents, purchasing additions while visiting England.



Adult Education

The WMQFA offers lectures and classes geared to adults, beginner to advanced, on topics including quilting, knitting, felting, beading, embellishment, fabric painting and dyeing, wearable art, rug hooking, basket weaving, paper making, mixed media art, hand and machine applique'.

Teachers are local, national and international experts.

[Click here to view the Educational Opportunities](#)





Youth Programs

SUMMER CAMPS

Dye Labs for Teens and Youth

WORKSHOPS FOR YOUTH

We offer specific workshops for Girl Scouts and also workshops for other youth groups such as 4H, clubs and home school.

SCHOOL OUTINGS

Piecing the Past field trip is designed to highlight the history and heritage of Wisconsin through role-playing, games and discussions, as well as provide hands-on experiences in traditional fiber arts such as quilting or weaving. Tours of the museum's 19th century farmstead and exhibitions round out the tour's offerings.

OUTREACH PROGRAM

For situations when it would be more convenient for the museum to come to a school, WMQFA offers the Outreach Program.





Special Events

- Lectures
- Facility Rental
- Community Events
- Member-only Events
- Featured Artists
- Annual Online Auction
- Winter Quilt Show





Gift Shop

Our **gallery-like Gift Shop** offers unique, hand-crafted gift items made by Wisconsin artists and our featured exhibitors.

You'll also find wearable art, quilt & fiber art, felted accessories, one-of-a-kind jewelry, woven items, toys, home decor and more.





**For more information, contact
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