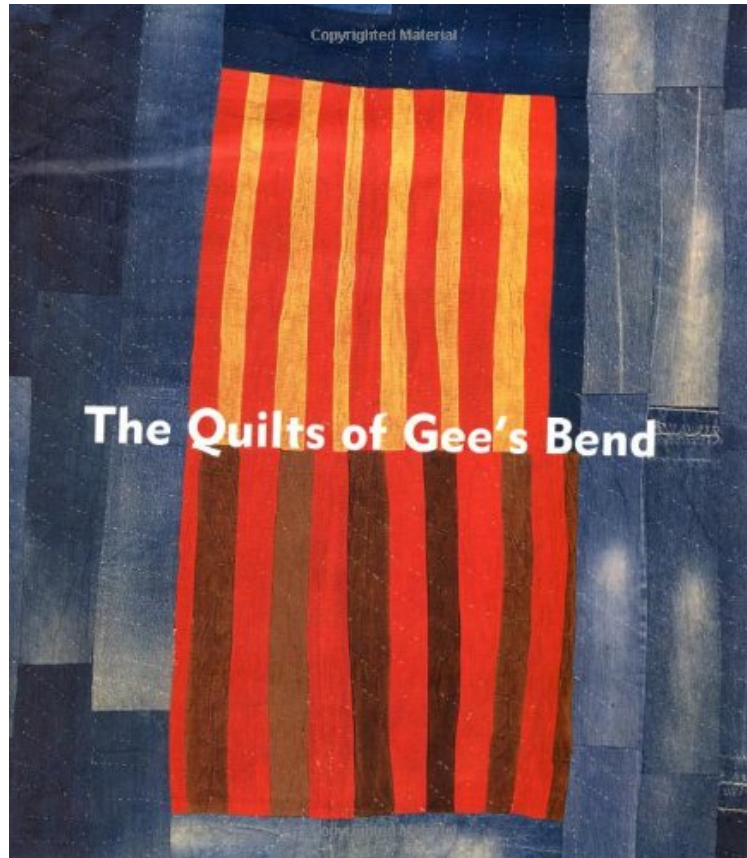


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The Quilts of Gee's Bend

William Arnett, Alvia Wardlaw, Jane Livingston, John Beardsley
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William Arnett, Alvia Wardlaw, Jane Livingston, John Beardsley : The Quilts of Gee's Bend before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Quilts of Gee's Bend:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. art for the everyday world...By James D. MatchettI was first exposed to the Quiltmakers of Gees Bend while in architecture. One of my teachers shared a video of a documentary of the quiltmakers and I remember being struck with the profound appreciation of how even the bleakest of environments, the human spirit can find a way to express itself in the most beautiful ways avaiable.The quiltmakers are all impoverished, poor, black women from Gees Bend, AL and are no more than one generation removed from slavery. None have had formal artistic training or any schooling on primary, secondary, or complimentary colors - yet collectively, they have generated what many consider the most compelling collection of modern art in America.The most compelling thing about the quilts are the incredibly personal stories that motivated the quiltmaker as they composed their masterpieces. Some of the stories will move you to tears as these brave women bare their souls in explaining how they found within themselves the ability to create such inspirational pieces of art.Last I heard, they had received funding for a national tour and had been to the nations most prestigious museums, namely the Milwaukee Art Museum (by Santiago Calatrava for all you architecture fans). If you should have the chance to obtain a copy of the

documentary, any book with their work, or have the privilege to view their work in person - I would highly recommend it! A true testament of the human spirit and our innate desire to express our innermost, personal feelings!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Mootie Wonderful
book... 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Memories which must be kept 'real'
By Sarah K. Bruner
This book is already a treasure and one I can love and then bequeath to another art and tradition and people lover... At the end of October in 2003, I was in Milwaukee to see this Quilt exhibition. Friends of Art from Indiana University drove to Chicago and then on to the marvelous museum in Milwaukee to experience the Quilts. What an awakening! That day I bought a Video. Since that time I have purchased the DVD and (when I found it online) the hardback book *The Quilts of Gee's Bend*! What a treasure! I am overjoyed to have this book and to have had the viewing experience! [I also use the USPS stamps and the book of postcards!] --Sarah K. Robinson

Since the 19th century, the women of Gee's Bend in southern Alabama have created stunning, vibrant quilts. Beautifully illustrated with 110 color illustrations, *The Quilts of Gee's Bend* includes a historical overview of the two hundred years of extraordinary quilt-making in this African-American community, its people, and their art-making tradition. This book is being released in conjunction with a national exhibition tour including The Museum of Fine Art, Houston, the Whitney Museum of American Art, The Corcoran Gallery of Art, The Museum of Fine Art, Boston, The Cleveland Museum of Art, The Milwaukee Art Museum, The High Museum of Art, Atlanta, The Mobile Museum of Art, and The Memphis Brooks Museum of Art.

From Publishers Weekly
Gee's Bend, Alabama, is a hamlet of 750 residents, most of whom are the descendants of slaves from the former Pettway plantation (and bear the surname Pettway), who during the New Deal purchased farms from the government. For much of the last century, the women of Gee's Bend have produced some of the most striking examples of American vernacular art, sharing them among the community and storing them within their homes. Aside from a brief stint of notoriety during a Civil Rights-era "Freedom Quilting Bee," this catalogue, accompanying an exhibit at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and New York's Whitney Museum of American Art, marks the work's entry into the public sphere. Founded by art collector William Arnett and Jane Fonda, the nonprofit Tinwood Alliance devotes itself to the cultural legacy of Gee's Bend, here offering 195 illustrations (162 in full color) documenting the quilts and the lives of many of their makers. The oversize format allows the many full-page reproductions to approximate the sensation of a large quilt spread on the page; the many "Housetop" quilts, with arresting geometric patterns and terrific color sense, speak for themselves. The book and exhibition make an important contribution to American cultural history. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Booklist
At first glance, the quilts of this collection are simply stunning--rich colors in surprising combinations, refreshingly irregular geometric compositions with hardly a right angle among them, big blocks whose seams virtually vibrate with energy. Then consider the history of the community they come from, and these quilts become a stunning illustration of resourcefulness. Gee's Bend, a remote peninsula on the Alabama River, is an isolated place, one that has known extreme poverty and struggle. Its quilters of the twentieth century are showcased here. Three insightful essays on the community's history and its quilting tradition make up for a self-consciously scholarly introduction. The words of the quilters themselves follow. Brief accounts of their lives and thoughts on quilting accompany full-page photographs of their accomplishments. This large-format hardcover, and coinciding exhibition at the Whitney Museum of American Art, should guarantee the women of Gee's Bend the prominence they deserve in the story of the American quilt. Marya Graff
Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved ...some of the most miraculous works of modern art America has produced. -- The New York Times (Kimmelman), November 29, 2002
If you see one exhibit this holiday season, the "Quilts of Gee's Bend" should be it. . . . fantastic art, profound humanity -- Newsday (Ariella Budick)
Its as if something in the local water has produced a whole villageful of Paul Klees -- Newsweek (Peter Plagens), November 18, 2002
Jackson who? These strikingly beautiful quilts just might deserve a place among the great works of twentieth-century abstract art. . . -- New York Magazine (Mark Stevens), December 23-30, 2002
The works are models of abstraction in an African-American tradition dating back to slavery days and beyond. -- New York Daily News (Celia McGee)