

For immediate release

EXHIBITION

QUILTS: FLORA BOTANICA

July 12-October 12, 2008 // Central Court

Sponsored by

Morgan Stanley

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PROMOTIONAL IMAGES AVAILABLE

Lawrence, KS— A new quilt exhibition at the Spencer Museum of Art considers the sources of inspiration for many of the classic botanical patterns in American quiltmaking. ***Quilts: Flora Botanica*** opens Saturday, July 12 and continues through October 12 in the museum's Kress Gallery.

The exhibition was organized for the Spencer by Barbara Brackman, an internationally known textiles expert and Lawrence resident who is the Spencer's honorary curator of quilts, in collaboration with Susan Earle, SMA's curator of European and American art. Brackman will give a gallery talk at 2 PM July 20; following the talk, she will sign copies of her recent book *Making History: Quilts and Fabric from 1890-1970*. For more information on the publication, please visit <http://www.ctpub.com/productdetails.cfm?SKU=10569> Other programming includes Sunday afternoon quilting demonstrations by Kansas area quilters (July 13 & 27, August 3, 10, & 17). A complete programming list is included in this release.

Botanical images have been among the most popular in American quilts. Rather than drawing directly from their gardens, most quiltmakers drew from centuries of folk art traditions. The abstractions we see as fruits and flowers can be traced to many cultures on many continents, including Greek mythology, the Judeo-Christian Bible, and Islamic, Indian, and Persian traditions. This exhibition examines sources and symbolism in floral pattern from various perspectives. Using other objects from the museum collection, the exhibition frames the artistic and cultural context in which the quilts were made, with references to Indian and Germanic folk arts, politics and popular culture.

Two particularly important quilts with the three-dimensional embroidery known as “stump work” will be on display. The exhibition will also focus on the concept of a teaching art museum providing inspiration using six contemporary copies of the antique quilts stitched by local artists from the Kaw Valley Quilters Guild. A pair of quilts, one from 1850 and one from 1930, will showcase master-quiltmaker Rose Kretsinger's use of the museum's quilt collection in the early 20th century.

Quilts: *Flora Botanica* is sponsored by Morgan Stanley.

QUILTS: FLORA BOTANICA

Public Programming

July 13

Quilting Demonstration: 2-4 PM / Central Court / Area quilters from the group Sew Whatever will demonstrate their work. Visitors are encouraged to observe and ask questions.

July 19

It Starts With Art! Children's art appreciation classes for ages 5-14.

“A Stitch or Nine”: Uncover quilts in the *Flora Botanica* exhibition and piece together an art quilt! / 10:30 AM & 1:30 PM / Central Court & galleries / \$ / To enroll, contact Jessica Johnson, SMA Education Department, 785.864.0137 or smakids@ku.edu or visit our website to enroll online.

July 20

Gallery Talk: Barbara Brackman on *Quilts: Flora Botanica* / 2 PM / Kress Gallery / Brackman is honorary SMA curator of quilts. / Following the talk, Brackman will sign copies of her recent book *Making History: Quilts and Fabric from 1890-1970*.

July 27

Quilting Demonstration: 2-4 PM / Central Court / Featuring area quilters from the group Women Who Run with Scissors. Visitors are encouraged to observe and ask questions.

August 3

Quilting Demonstration: 2-4 PM / Central Court / Featuring area quilters from the group QBCs (Quilting, Books and Conversation). Visitors are encouraged to observe and ask questions.

August 10

Quilting Demonstration: 2-4 PM / Central Court / Featuring area quilters from the group High IQs (Independent Quilters). Visitors are encouraged to observe and ask questions.

August 17

Quilting Demonstration: 2-4 PM / Central Court / Featuring area quilters from the group Kansas Capital Guild Members. Visitors are encouraged to observe and ask questions.

September 11

Gallery Talk: Barbara Brackman on *Quilts: Flora Botanica* / 5:30 PM / Kress Gallery / Brackman is honorary SMA curator of quilts.

October 4

It Starts With Art! Children's art appreciation classes for ages 5-14

Block it Out: Using quilt blocks as a guide, students will design a pattern filled with people, animals or more / 10:30 AM & 1:30 PM / Central Court & Galleries / \$ / To enroll, contact Jessica Johnson, SMA Education Department, 785.864.0137 or smakids@ku.edu or visit our website to enroll online.

Spencer Museum of Art

The University of Kansas

1301 Mississippi Street

Lawrence 66045-7500

785.864.4710

Also find the Spencer...

- On the Web: www.spencerart.ku.edu
- E-mail: spencerart@ku.edu

Gallery hours

Tues., Wed., Fri., & Saturday 10 AM—5 PM

Thurs. 10 AM—9 PM

Sun. Noon—5 PM

Closed Monday

Museum Shop closes 30 minutes before the galleries close.

- Free parking in Lot 91 after 5 PM on weekdays and all day weekends, excepting home football games.
- Parking garage adjacent to Kansas Union is \$1 per hour weekdays, free on Saturdays and Sundays (but unavailable on home football games).