

# Legendary Gee's Bend quilters back in Sisters

Members of the Gee's Bend Quilters Collective are returning to Sisters for their third visit to the Sisters Outdoor Quilt Show. Gloria Hoppins, Lucy Lee Witherspoon, China Pettway, Mary Ann Pettway and Stella Mae Pettway will participate in a variety of Quilter's Affair activities and artists receptions as well as participate on Quilt Show Day. The quilters of Gee's Bend's visit is made possible by a grant from The Roundhouse Foundation, with additional support from the Sharon and Mike Anglea Family.

The Quilts of Gee's Bend are created by a group of women and their ancestors who live or have lived in the isolated African-American hamlet of Gee's Bend, Alabama. The quilts of Gee's Bend are considered to be one of the most unique and important African-American visual and cultural contributions to the history of art within the United States.

"When I first saw the work of the quilts of Gee's Bend, I was inspired. It completely opened up my approach to quilt design," said Jean Wells Keenan, founder of the Quilt Show. "Now that they have been here a few times we can see how their work has influenced other artists in our community."

"The fact that these quilters recently received a National Heritage Award from the NEA makes their

visit all that more special," said Kathy Deggendorfer. "The Roundhouse Foundation support of these quilters coming back to our community is the essence the foundation's work of sharing creative expressions in all forms, for all generations."

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**— Jean Wells Keenan**

On Thursday, July 9, 3:30 to 6:30 p.m., at Studio Redfield, 183 E. Hood Ave., their quilts will be on display along with the contemporary tiles inspired by the quilts of Gee's Bend. Susanne Kibak Redfield and Kathy Deggendorfer exhibit their contemporary tile works inspired by the quilts of Gee's Bend. Joining the tile artists are the quilters of Gee's Bend. Also on display will be a sampling of the quilts from Gee's Bend and the quilters themselves.

On Saturday, July 11, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the quilters of Gees Bend will be present at the Teacher's Tent, located on the lawn behind Sisters Art Works at 204 W. Adams Ave.

# Library art exhibit showcases quilts

By Sue Stafford  
Correspondent

Friends of the Sisters Library (FOSL), in conjunction with the Sisters Outdoor Quilt Show, is hosting two colorful and creative quilt exhibits through July 29.

The walls of the library community room are covered with the creations of seven Portland artists who call their group MIX – Materials in Extreme. MIX artists developed a series of new works examining the concept “in the extreme.” Whether through use of a single theme or similar technique, their work explores material, shape or distortion, and color “in the extreme.” The entire exhibit of 21 very distinct pieces is unified by each piece being rendered as an 18-inch square.

One artist intentionally combined opposing colors to challenge traditional color theory. Others incorporated other materials in addition to fabric, such as paint chips, wood, rocks and metal.

Members used a wide range of techniques in their art, including surface design (such as dyeing, printing, painting, screen printing, and embroidery), piecing and applique including fusion,

machine- and hand-quilting, and several others. Their work is mainly abstract or impressionistic and pushes the traditional boundaries of quilting and fiber art.

The group meets monthly to critique, support, and challenge one another to create inspired and unique works of art, while exploring the design principles of their craft and other art media.

"Painting Quilts with Ink," the exhibit in the library computer room, is an exhibition of quilts made by various Oregon artists who learned the technique from Prineville author, artist, and quilter June Jaeger.

Using Tsukineko inks as paints, five quilt artists used a favorite photograph as inspiration to create their own fabric picture. Employing techniques of texture, "dry brush" and innovative painting brings their fabric portraits to life. Finishing and quilting the paintings enhanced the

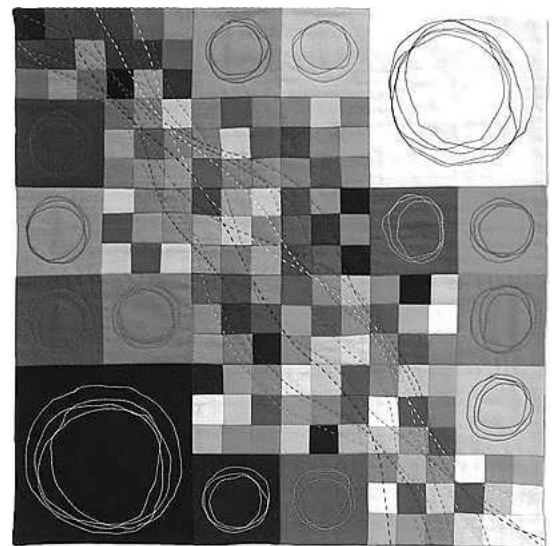


PHOTO PROVIDED

MIX: Losli-Britt Diane Running Apart.

quilts to become unique one-of-a-kind creations.

The artists will be available from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Quilt Show day, July 11, to answer questions and provide information on their techniques and processes. Exhibits will be on display through July 29 during library hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday - Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays. For more information call 541-312-1070.

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