



News Release

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Contact: Sandra Duncan, 408-621-1101, pr@sjquiltmuseum.org
Connie DeWitt, 408-971-0323 x21, connie@sjquiltmuseum.org

WINTER EXHIBITS AT MUSEUM OF QUILTS & TEXTILES DEMONSTRATE WIDE RANGE OF TEXTILE ART FORMS

San Jose, Calif., October 6, 2006 – The San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles will present two one-person shows and a never- before-seen exhibition of quilts from the permanent collection January 16 to April 8, 2007. These shows explore a wide range of textile art from traditional quilt forms to contemporary abstract expressionist and collage forms. *Between the Curtains: Bob Freimark's Czech Romance, 1970-1995* features a collection of bold, expressionist tapestries from this renowned painter, printmaker and teacher. *The Etiquette of Form: Fiber Art by Fran Skiles* offers a view into this innovative artist's groundbreaking work in contemporary textile collage. *Outside the Box: Quilts with Character* is a first-time-ever view of some of the more uncommon and quirky quilts from the Museum's permanent collection, with pieces spanning from the 19th century to 21st century. An opening reception with the artists is scheduled for January 21, 2007 from 2:00-4:00pm. The reception is open to the public and free with admission.

Between the Curtains: Bob Freimark's Czech Romance, 1970 – 1995

“Bob Freimark's tapestries are exuberant celebrations of color and movement and the triumph of a passionate, improvisational spirit,” said curator Deborah Corsini. Although not woven like traditional tapestries, their scale and content similarly command attention. The process and machinery used to create these large-scale tapestries, Art Protis, was invented in Communist Czechoslovakia in response to excess wool production in Australia. Multi-colored wool fleece is arranged onto a backing cloth, and the machinery stitches it in place. The Czech government built the Art Protis machinery and commissioned artists to create works that took advantage of the excess material. Married to a Czech citizen, Freimark was the only American given the opportunity to design and create these rare pieces at Art Protis studios in Czechoslovakia.

The Etiquette of Form: Fiber Art by Fran Skiles

Fran Skiles' textile collages invite viewers to unravel their mysteries layer by layer. Created in the spirit of the quilt yet far evolved from any traditional quilt form, these 'skins,' as Skiles calls them, are made of at least three layers, one of paper and two of fabric, painted on and sewn together.

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She uses acrylic gloss medium to integrate fabric with photocopies, Japanese papers, and her own photographic images that she manipulates and prints. The resulting surface is both rigid and flexible, with a translucent sepia-like tonality and a sense of receding into a horizon. “Blurring the boundaries between traditional and contemporary fiber art, her work is deeply personal and quietly reflective,” said Corsini. “Skiles gives you a sense of her contemplation, hinting at something hidden and invites you to look more closely.” The elements of her work, shape, line, transparency and texture are thoughtfully placed, and these relationships are fully explored in her art making process, providing a feeling of ceremony and etiquette.

Outside the Box: Quilts with Character

This selection of never-before-exhibited quilts from the Museum’s permanent collection represents some of the more unusual, spirited and whimsical pieces from the collection. Culled from a collection of more than 400 quilts, these pieces demonstrate the wide range of creative and innovative expression available within the realm of traditional quilting. This exhibition includes an intricately executed Grandmother’s Flower Garden quilt top made by Mrs. Francis Scott Key, wife of the author of the verse that became our national anthem, a stunning one-of-a-kind satin petal bed cover, and geometric works whose design style – quirky and contemporary – anticipates works of a much later time. Literally and figuratively these quilts stand outside the box as examples of individuality, personality and style.

Founded in 1977, the San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles is the oldest museum of its kind in the United States and in 2005 became one of the top 10 attractions in San Jose. Museum and Museum Store hours are: 10:00am-5:00pm Tuesday through Sunday; closed Mondays and major holidays. Admission is \$6.50 general; \$5 students and seniors; and free to museum members and children under 13. Admission is free on the first Friday of each month. The San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles is located at 520 South First Street in downtown San Jose. For more information, call 408-971-0323 or visit www.sjqiltmuseum.org.

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Editors Note: For available images go to http://www.sjqiltmuseum.org/Winter2007_PRimages.htm

This exhibition and associated programming is supported, in part, by "Advancing the Arts Initiative," an initiative of Community Foundation Silicon Valley, funded by the James Irvine Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation; by a grant from Arts Council Silicon Valley, in partnership with the County of Santa Clara and the California Arts Council; the City of San Jose; the David and Lucile Packard Foundation; and the Santa Clara Valley Quilt Association.