

Modern Marvels

Quilts Made from Kits, 1915–1950

An exhibition created by the INTERNATIONAL QUILT STUDY CENTER & MUSEUM, University of Nebraska-Lincoln



During the Great Depression it seemed as though everyone was quilting, and countless numbers of quilts were made. Quilts from this era are easily recognizable because they were made in a few popular patterns and color schemes. What is not so well known, however, is that a significant number of these quilts were made from kits. In fact, quilt scholars were not aware until relatively recently just how many surviving Depression-era quilts were made from kits.

Using a kit to make a quilt seemed modern and efficient to the women of the 1930s. After all, during this era Sears Roebuck & Co. was offering kits to build houses. The variety of kits available, ranging from the simplest to the most elegant, and the persuasive advertising of kits in magazines and catalogs, made them popular. “Modern Marvels: Quilts Made from Kits, 1915 - 1950” demonstrates that women could and did use kits coupled with their own needlework skills to produce a dazzling array of beautiful quilts.



Pink Dogwood (Marie Webster kit), unknown maker, possibly made in Indiana, circa 1927
International Quilt Study Center, 1997.007.0824

Exhibition Specs

Number of works: 12 quilts with accompanying label text. Total running feet (w/ 24” between quilts): approx. 100

Exhibition period: 12 weeks

Participation costs: \$8,500 exhibition fee, plus insurance. Exhibition fee includes domestic shipping.

Display requirements: One 1”x 2” polyurethane-coated wood slat for hanging each quilt; on-site security; controlled temperature & humidity; appropriate lighting levels for textiles (50-60 lux). The IQSC reserves the right to have

a representative present during installation and de-installation.

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Selections from the Exhibition

1 Blue Basket

Circa 1950

Maker unknown

Possibly made in : United States ,
Pennsylvania

98.5 x 85.5 1997.007.0292



7 Star of Bethlehem

Circa 1930

Maker unknown

Possibly made in : United States ,
Ohio , Canton

83.5 x 81 1997.007.0710



2 Poppies

Circa 1925

Maker unknown

Made in : United States

89 x 77 1997.007.0411.2



8 Dresden I

Circa 1932

Maker unknown

Made in : United States

87 x 74 1997.007.0771



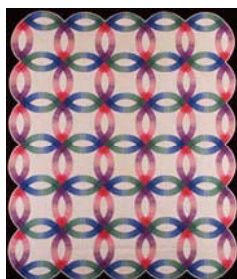
3 Double Wedding Ring

Circa 1930 - 1940

Maker unknown

Possibly made in : United States ,
Kentucky

97 x 79.5 1997.007.0498



9 Floral Basket

Circa 1932

Maker unknown

Possibly made in : United States ,
Ohio , Cleveland

87.5 x 76 1997.007.0791



4 Painted Daisy

Circa 1936

Maker unknown

Possibly made in : United States ,
Indiana

36.5 x 27.5 1997.007.0499



10 Trip Around the World

Circa 1930 - 1940

Maker unknown

Possibly made in : United States ,
Ohio

78 x 70 1997.007.0819



5 May Tulips

Circa 1925

Maker unknown

Possibly made in : United States ,
Ohio

91 x 76 1997.007.0643



11 Pink Dogwood

Circa 1927

Maker unknown

Possibly made in : United States ,
Indiana

84 x 83 1997.007.0824



6 Snowflake

Circa 1963

Maker unknown

Made in : United States

92 x 76.5 1997.007.0682



12 Daisy Chain

Circa 1936

Maker unknown

Possibly made in : United States ,
Ohio , Shaker Heights

100 x 76.5 1997.007.0834

