MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

One of the most satisfying responsibilities of a museum is to help people see the world and themselves differently. Museums do this through the stories they tell with objects, the art they exhibit, and the programs and activities they host. During the past fiscal year, the International Quilt Study Center & Museum organized a diverse array of exhibitions and programs that inspired visitors in a variety of ways.

“Elegant Geometry: American and British Patchwork Mosaic” presented 20 eye-dazzling examples of an exacting tradition, which emmigrants from the British Isles brought with them to America. “Yvonne Wells: Quilted Messages” introduced the pictorial quilts of Alabama folk artist, Yvonne Wells, who explored themes ranging from civil rights in the South to stories from the Bible. “What's in a Name? Inscribed Quilts” revealed the amazing stories that we can discover by researching and tracing clues found in the words inscribed by makers on their quilts. Most of the makers were ordinary women who left no other tangible record of their lives. Many visitors were inspired to learn more about their own family history and family quilts. These are highlights of only three of the six exhibitions presented throughout the year. More details about these and the others are presented later in this report.

Another important milestone for the museum was reached this year when the American Alliance of Museums Accreditation Committee voted at its March 12-15, 2012, to grant interim approval to the IQSCM to proceed in the accreditation process. The next step is a site visit by an Accreditation Visiting Committee, which will take place in December. The Visiting Committee's job is to act as the “eyes and ears” of the Accreditation Commission — verifying that the museum fulfills its mission, operates as reported in its self-study document and according to recommended standards and best practices. We look forward to the opportunity to show the site visit team the many ways in which the IQSCM fulfills its mission, which is:

To inspire an understanding of the cultural and artistic significance of quilts by collecting, preserving, studying, exhibiting, and promoting the discovery of quilts and quiltmaking traditions from many cultures, countries, and time periods.

As you will see in this annual report, the IQSCM achieved its mission in all areas – collections, exhibitions, public programs, research and education. It has been another outstanding year.

We are grateful to you, our supporters, for your crucial investment in the mission of the IQSCM. We remain dedicated to maximizing our resources and to seeking essential new funding as we prepare for the future. We look forward to another year of discovery and engagement.

Patricia Crews, Ph.D.  
Willa Cather Professor of Textiles  
Director, International Quilt Study Center & Museum
TEACHING AND RESEARCH PROGRAMS

The graduate program in textile history with a quilt studies emphasis is a unique degree offering by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s Department of Textiles, Merchandising and Fashion Design. Its combination of rigorous coursework and hands-on experience in collections care and exhibitions produces graduates ready to assume positions in museums, historical societies and other pursuits.

COURSES AND SEMINARS

“Aesthetics and the Quilt.” Fall Semester 2011. Distance delivery course by Professor Michael James.

“Care and Conservation of Textile Collections.” Spring Semester 2012. Course by Dr. Patricia Crews.


TEXTILE HISTORY/QUILT STUDIES GRADUATES

AUGUST 2011-MAY 2012

Megan Huelman – MA, August 2011
Madeleine Roberg – MA, August 2011
Ellen Rushman – MA, May 2012

Currently, eleven textile history/quilt studies students are pursuing degrees in the graduate program. Six students are in various stages of completing the distance delivery masters program. Five students are on the UNL campus completing the textile history/quilt studies programs.

Thirty-six students have completed the Textile History/Quilt Studies program since the formation of the IQSC in 1997. Of those, 14 completed the distance delivery program in quilt studies; the remainder completed their masters degree via the traditional program offered on campus.

Graduates of the program hold positions in museums and universities across the United States including the North Dakota State Historical Society (Collections Manager), Arizona State Museum of Anthropology (Curator of Exhibitions), National Quilt Museum (Curator, Paducah, KY), San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles (Interim Director), La Crosse County Historical Society, Wisconsin (Curator), Milwaukee Public Museum (Consulting Curator), Nebraska State Historical Society (Exhibits Services Coordinator), and the International Quilt Study Center & Museum (Curators).

INTERNS

Cindy Delong, Collections
Susan Stanley, Exhibitions
PUBLICATIONS


NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATIONS 2011-2012


HONORS


Edgren Fellowships (Out-of-State Tuition Waivers for student’s entire graduate coursework) awarded to the following Textile History/Quilt Studies students: Donna Langford, Cindy Delong and Susan Stanley.
GRANTS

- Cooper Foundation. $8,825. Elegant Geometry: American and British Mosaic Patchwork.” Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2011. (Marin Hanson, P.I.)
- James Foundation. $226,993 “Quilting Across the Globe.” Nov. 1, 2006 to Dec. 31, 2011. (Marin Hanson, P.I.)
- National Park Service and Institute for Museum and Library Services. $25,000. “Save America’s Treasures Grant for James Collection Conservation.” February 2011 to February 2013. (Carolyn Ducey, P.I.)
- Nebraska Humanities Council. $3,390 “Yvonne Wells: Quilted Messages Exhibition and Public Programs.” April 2011 to February 2012. (Patricia Crews, P.I.)
- Stockman Family Foundation Trust. $76,000. “Quilt Conservation.” December 2010 to December 2012. (Carolyn Ducey, P.I.)

FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS

Janice Frisch, doctoral candidate, Indiana University, and Linda Baumgarten, Curator of Textiles and Costume, Colonial Williamsburg, were the residential fellowship recipients for the 2011-2012 academic year.

Janice Frisch spent four weeks on campus during late summer and early fall examining early 19th century patchwork quilts in the IQSCM collections. She endeavored to discern the historical and social factors that led to a shift during the 19th century from strippy, medallion and mosaic layouts to a block-style format in quilts. The reason for the noticeable shift in quilt layout from medallion to a block-style format is one of the larger questions in quilt scholarship that remains relatively unexplored and unexplained.

Linda Baumgarten devoted two weeks during spring semester examining 18th and 19th century quilts with hidden or subtle information in their quilting patterns. Using a computer-aided drawing technique, she renders the quilting designs visible for further study, comparisons and analysis. An engaging exhibition showcasing her research findings is planned for 2013-2014.

SYMPOSIUM

The International Quilt Study Center & Museum’s sixth biennial symposium, “Quilts in Context: The Making of Meaning,” is slated for April 26-27, 2013, and is being planned to complement the exhibitions scheduled during that time period: “Indigo Gives America the Blues,” “Perfecting the Past: Colonial Revival Quilts” and “Historic Quilt Photos and Quilt.” Invited speakers include Lynne Bassett, Linda Eaton and Joan Severa, plus guest exhibition curator Janet Finley.
COLLECTIONS

The collections constitute the heart of the IQSCM. They are the essential components of exhibitions, the primary textile documents for students and scholars who use them for research and education, and the source of inspiration for artists.

ACQUISITIONS

An outpouring of respect and admiration for Ardis James after her death in 2011, resulted in one of the most significant groups of quilts ever given to the IQSCM. Seventeen artists contributed spectacular quilts in honor of Ardis James, who supported and encouraged them early in their careers.

“Nothing would please her more than knowing that artists whose work she admired and loved would honor her in this way,” said Michael James, professor and chairman of the UNL Department of Textiles, Merchandising and Fashion Design.

The artists included luminaries of the studio art quilt world: Sonya Lee Barrington, Pauline Burbidge, Dorothy Caldwell, Gayle Fraas & Duncan L. Slade, Wendy Huhn, Michael James, Ann Johnston, Judith Larzelere, Linda MacDonald, Terrie Hancock Mangat, Therese May, Ellen Oppenheimer, Joan Schulze, Lynn Setterington, Susan Shie and Sandra Sider.

Collector and author Linda Carlson donated fourteen additional four-block quilts to the Linda Carlson collection. Since 2004, Carlson has generously made three additional donations, which doubled the number of four-block quilts to nearly 70 examples.

Additional collections given this year included 50 quilts given by collector Patricia Cox of Minneapolis. Cox collected Welsh and American quilts and particularly focused on dated and signed examples.

Individual donations included a quilt featured in the seminal book *Nebraska Quilts and Quiltmakers*, a Flower Basket quilt donated by Geneva Wenke, and two 1840s inscribed quilts. One inscribed quilt donated by Jean Warfield Keenan is a sister quilt to an 1843 inscribed quilt given to the IQSCM in 1997. The second 1840s inscribed quilt donated this year is a Pratt family quilt donated by Dione Stuart.

International quilts and related textiles continued to be a collecting priority this year. Significant additions to the collection came with the help of Chris Martens as she traveled throughout Central Asia, including several silk ikat wholecloth quilts and quilts with wood-block printed tops from Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. Marin Hanson’s research of quilting traditions of Chinese cultures led to the addition of a spectacular silk Miao quilted jacket, a variety of appliqued Buyi and Yao quilt tops and two silk patchwork pieces from Tibet.
PHOTOGRAPHY
Last year, 1,479 quilt photographs were taken. Each was processed into three different sizes with differing resolutions, which makes 4,437 images added to the image library. Images are used for publicity, publications, lectures, and website content, including online exhibitions.

Of those, 95 images were taken of the IQSCM’s unique collection of doll beds and doll furniture from the Mary Ghormley Collection. Using a “soft” box, constructed by one of our staff photographers, the illusion of an infinite background was created. When viewing the images there is no sense of walls, floors or ceilings to detract from the artifact.

Visiting scholar Linda Baumgarten requested a series of photographs that would allow the quilting patterns stitched into selected wholecloth quilts to be easily seen and later duplicated in a software program for future study and comparison. To fulfill this request, images had to be taken of both the quilt front and back. The project was especially challenging since the lighting requirements for one-color quilts are difficult to establish. Our staff photographer took up to 50 images of a single quilt and merged them through software to create the detailed images required for this research project.

IQSCM received 24 requests for images from instructors, scholars, students, researchers and publications and provided 278 images during the last fiscal year.

WEBSITE
IQSCM continues to build its online presence. According to website analytics, Quilt of the Month newsletter regularly brings high traffic volumes to www.QuiltStudy.org. From July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012 there were 120,749 unique visitors to the website.

The average visitor spent about five minutes on the IQSCM website. By comparison, most website visitors spend less than a minute per visit. In addition, the website’s bounce rate was 32 percent, compared to the 50 percent average of most websites. Bounce rate represents the percentage of visitors who enter a site and leave rather than stay to view additional pages. A low bounce rate means once visitors land on IQSCM’s page, they will likely explore other parts of the website. Both statistics indicate QuiltStudy.org has a highly engaged visitor base.

Presently about 15 percent of our web traffic is mobile. Industry trends indicate this percentage will increase over time. We are in the process of developing a more user-friendly mobile website.

IQSCM’s social media presence grew in 2011-2012, and the challenge in 2012-2013 will be to build that even more by providing content that meets our mission and attracts visitors to the museum.
EXHIBITIONS

NEBRASKA QUILTS AND QUILTMAKERS
APRIL 8-OCT. 2, 2011

Featuring a selection of quilts from the award-winning book, *Nebraska Quilts and Quiltmakers*, this exhibition examined the importance of quilts and quiltmaking throughout Nebraska’s history and told the story of one of the earliest statewide quilt documentation projects in the United States.

ELEGANT GEOMETRY: AMERICAN AND BRITISH MOSAIC PATCHWORK
MAY 28, 2011-JAN. 8, 2012

This exhibition traced the development of the mosaic style quilt and presented 20 stunning examples of an exacting and time-consuming art. Made from thousands of precisely shaped fabrics formed with the use of templates, the technique was practiced in the British Isles as early as the 1700s. It became popular in other parts of Europe as well as in British colonies, including America by the early 1800s.

YVONNE WELLS: QUILTED MESSAGES
OCT. 7, 2011-FEB. 26, 2012


IN THE EDUCATION GALLERIES

Second Time Around: Quilts Remade by Joan White
Quilts of the Homesteading Era
Stars: A Study of Nineteenth-Century Star Quilts by the American Quilt Study Group
Sewing Tools and Toys from the Dianne Duncan Thomas Collection


A 19th Century child’s sewing machine featured in “Sewing Tools and Toys” from the Dianne Duncan Thomas Collection.
WHAT'S IN A NAME? INSCRIBED QUILTS
JAN. 13-DEC. 2, 2012

A small number of quiltmakers in the past inscribed their work with names, dates, locations and sentimental phrases that expressed friendship, personal values and interests, helped to raise funds to support religious or social organizations, or simply left a lasting legacy of the maker's life. “What's In a Name?” revealed the amazing stories that can be discovered by researching and tracing clues found in the words inscribed by the makers on these extraordinary quilts.

A TRIBUTE TO ARDIS JAMES
JAN. 6-JULY 29, 2012

Ardis James was a collector extraordinaire and passionate supporter of the IQSCM. Since the original donation of the Ardis and Robert James Collection in 1997 and the establishment of the International Quilt Study Center, Ardis remained actively informed of and involved in the activities of the center until her death in July 2011. This exhibition featured quilts donated in her honor by many of today's leading studio quilt artists, including Michael James, Pauline Burbidge, Terrie Hancock Mangat and Dorothy Caldwell.

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JEAN RAY LAURY: GETTING IT ALL TOGETHER
MARCH 2-SEPT. 2, 2012

Using both quilts and an extensive array of archival materials, this exhibition examined the significant impact of Jean Ray Laury, a leader in the California art quilt movement. Beginning in the 1960s, she created provocative images from a feminist viewpoint in her quilted, felted, and screen-printed textiles, inspiring other artists to likewise adopt a political stance in their work. She also authored a series of books that stimulated a whole generation of quilters and artists that followed her.
VOLUNTEERS

A total of 71 volunteers worked nearly 3,000 hours, including 12 docents who gave 165 tours. Forty-nine volunteers completed their commitment of 24 hours and/or eight tours per year and received a certificate on Volunteer Recognition Day, Sept. 27, 2011. Recognition Day activities included a presentation on recent acquisitions by Carolyn Ducey, curator of collections; awarding of certificates; and brunch. The Marilyn Hitz Volunteer Recognition Fund supported this event.

VOLUNTEERS WHO MET THEIR 2011 SERVICE COMMITMENT

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Jean Ang
Kathie Baumbach
Jo Baxter
Joan Brink
Shelly Burge
Irene Colborn
Lynne Coleman
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PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Museum programs are developed to complement exhibitions and to appeal to public interest. Quilt Identification Days continue to attract quilt owners wishing to learn more about their quilts and document the information. The popular “My Doll and I” workshops continue to draw children and their parents to explore current exhibitions. Adults enjoyed the “Let’s Create” workshops, learning various methods of monoprinting and textile dyeing.

In the “Quilts for Community” program, small groups from the Lincoln Quilters Guild provided quilting demonstrations several times throughout the year. These demonstrations were so popular with visitors, we expanded the program and invited all small groups that desired to share their passion for quilting with the public to schedule a Saturday.

National Quilting Day, sponsored by the Nebraska State Quilters Guild, the Lincoln Quilters Guild HandiQuilter and Sew Creative, was once again a great success with nearly 500 visitors enjoying free admission, workshops and demonstrations.

Last year the museum welcomed more than 12,600 visitors. Volunteer docents provided guided tours, free with admission, Tuesday through Saturday.

More than 1,000 visitors enjoyed First Friday events each month, when the museum is free to the public from 4:30 to 7 p.m. as part of Lincoln’s Artwalk.

FRIENDS OF THE IQSCM

Friends of the International Quilt Study Center is a non-profit organization of volunteers dedicated to supporting the mission of International Quilt Study Center & Museum. The 501(c)3 organization supports IQSCM through programs, special events, exhibits, grant funding and learning opportunities.

Friends of IQSCM provided funding for reprinting 4,000 copies of the publication, “To Protect and Preserve,” additional lighting for the terrace lobby on second floor, additional display cases, and more.

Nearly 500 visitors participated in workshops and demonstrations during National Quilting Day.
MEMBERSHIP

Membership is the best way to experience everything the International Quilt Study Center & Museum has to offer, including the opportunity to support the museum and help promote the discovery of quilts and quiltmaking traditions from many cultures, countries and time periods.

As of June 30, 456 members, enjoyed unlimited admission, quarterly e-newsletters, invitations to special events, sneak previews of major new exhibitions and discounts on workshops. In addition to these basic benefits, family members may bring a spouse or guest and children or grandchildren.

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John Walsh III, New Jersey

FELLOWS

Fellows include scholars presently holding regular appointments at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln whose research, teaching or public service activities intersect with the mission of the International Quilt Study Center & Museum. Fellows serve on the supervisory committees of students in the textile history/quilt studies graduate program, teach courses, supervise internships and mentor graduate.

Mary Cassner, Associate Professor & Subject Specialist Librarian
Patricia Crews, Director, International Quilt Study Center & Museum and Professor, Textiles, Merchandising & Fashion Design
Carolyn Ducey, Curator of Collections, International Quilt Study Center & Museum
Mary Ellen Ducey, Associate Professor & Special Collections/Archives Librarian
Marin Hanson, Curator of Exhibitions, International Quilt Study Center & Museum
Michael James, Chairperson and Ardis James Professor, Textiles, Merchandising & Fashion Design
Wendy Katz, Associate Professor, Art and Art History
Margaret Latta, Associate Professor, Teaching, Learning & Teacher Education
Kari Ronning, Research Associate Professor, English
Alison Stewart, Professor, Art and Art History
Barbara Trout, Professor, Textiles, Merchandising & Fashion Design
Diane Vigna, Extension Specialist, Textiles, Merchandising & Fashion Design
Wendy Weiss, Professor, Textiles, Merchandising & Fashion Design
Kenneth Winkle, Professor, History
Susan Wunder, Associate Professor, Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Education
ASSOCIATE FELLOWS

Associate fellows include persons not presently holding regular appointments at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln who have a professional interest in the purposes and program of the International Quilt Study Center & Museum. Candidates for election must be nominated by a fellow. The nominator must present evidence of a research, teaching or public service commitment to the mission of the IQSCM.

Associate fellows participate in the educational programs of the IQSCM in a variety of ways including serving as guest exhibition curators, serving as informal members of the graduate student’s reading committee and supervising internships at their respective institutions.

Linda Arthur, Professor, Washington State University
Jacqueline Atkins, Chief Curator, Allentown Art Museum, Allentown, PA
Lynne Z. Bassett, Independent curator and author, Ware, MA
Linda Baumgarten, Curator of Costume and Textiles, Colonial Williamsburg
Kathryn Berenson, Author, Paris, France
Janet Berlo, Professor of Art History, University of Rochester, NY
Barbara Brackman, Independent Curator, author and scholar, Lawrence, KS
Glen Brown, Associate Professor of Art History, Kansas State University
Pauline Burbidge, Artist, Berwickshire, Scotland
Dorothy Caldwell, Artist, Hastings, Ontario
Robert Cargo, Professor Emeritus, University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa
Xenia Cord, Independ. Scholar, Kokomo, IN
Geraldine Craig, Associate Professor of Art, Kansas State University
Raymond Dobard, Professor of Art, Howard College, Washington, DC
Linda Eaton, Curator of Textiles, Winterthur Museum, DE
Judy Elsley, Professor of English, Weber State University, Weber, UT
Sandi Fox, Independent Curator, author and scholar, Los Angeles, CA
Annette Gero, Associate Professor, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
Laurann Gilbertson, Textile Curator, Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum, Decorah, IA
Jennifer Goldsbrough, Curator and Adjunct Professor, Parson’s School of Design and Sotheby’s Institute, NY
Beverly Gordon, Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Virginia Gunn, Professor, University of Akron, OH
Colleen Hall-Patton, Lecturer, University of Nevada-Las Vegas
Marilyn Henrion, Artist, New York, NY
Bernard Herman, George B. Tindall Professor of American Studies, University of North Carolina
Jonathan Holstein, Author, independent curator, Cazenovia, NY
Laurel Horton, Folklorist, independent curator, author, Seneca, SC
Mary Anne Jordan, Professor, Department of Design, University of Kansas
Stacy Kamehiro, Assistant Professor, University of California, Santa Cruz
Lisa Kriner, Associate Professor of Art, Berea College, Berea, KY
Bridget Long, Independent scholar and author, Hertfordshire, England
Marsha MacDowell, Curator of Folk Art, Michigan State University Museum
Terrie Hancock Mangat, Artist, Valdez, NM
Susan Marks, Independent Scholar, England
Carolyn Mazloomi, Artist, author, Westchester, Ohio
Ronald Naugle, Professor Emeritus of History, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Lincoln, NE
Aimee Newell, Director of Collections, Scottish Rite Masonic Museum, Lexington, MA
Thereza Oleinick, Associate Professor, Theatre, Auburn University, AL
Ellen Oppenheimer, Artist, Oakland, CA
Margaret Ordonez, Associate Professor, University of Rhode Island
Dorothy Osler, Independent scholar and author, Northumberland, England
Rachel Pannabecker, Director, Kauffman Museum, Bethel College, Newton, KS
Cynthia Prescott, Assistant Professor of History, University of North Dakota
Sue Prichard, Curator of Contemporary Textiles, Victoria & Albert Museum, London
Jane Przybysz, Director, McKissick Museum of Art, University of South Carolina
Clare Rose, Independent Scholar, Visiting Lecturer in History of Design, Chelsea College of Art, London
Joy Saville, Artist, Princeton, NJ
Judy Schwender, Curator of Collections/Registrar, National Quilt Museum, Paducah, KY
Marilyn Serraino, Associate Professor of Humanities, College of Mount Saint Joseph, Cincinnati, OH
Lynn Setterington, Artist and Senior Lecturer, Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester, England
Robert Shaw, Independent scholar, author, Shelburne, VT
Sandra Sider, Artist, curator, adjunct instructor Fashion Institute of Technology, Bronx, NY
Janneken Smucker, Assistant Professor of History, West Chester University, PA
Marybeth Stalp, Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Northern Iowa
Tricia Stoddard, Independent scholar, author, Provo, UT
Maud Wahlman, Professor, Dept. of Art and Art History, University of Missouri - Kansas City
Merikay Waldvogel, Independent curator, author, lecturer, Knoxville, TN
Janice Wass, Curator Emeritus, Illinois State Museum
Linda Welters, Professor of Textile and Costume History, University of Rhode Island
Jenny Yearous, Curator of Collections, North Dakota State Historical Soc.
Shelly Zegart, Author, collector, founding director of the Alliance for American Quilts, Louisville, KY
Nebraska Quilts & Quiltmakers

What’s in a Name?
Inscribed Quilts

A Tribute to
Ardis James

Jean Ray Laury:
Getting it All Together

Yvonne Wells:
Quilted Messages

Elegant Geometry:
American and British Mosaic Patchwork

Annual Report 2011-2012