

*"Some of the most miraculous works of modern art America has produced"*  
—The New York Times

# The Quilters of *Gee's Bend*

Catalog  
March 2023

Gee's Bend Quilts will be exhibited at Joyce Gordon's Gallery  
406 14th Street, Oakland, Ca. 94612 in Downtown Oakland  
March 3 - 25, 2023

Exhibition is co-presented by

Joyce Gordon Gallery  
Phone: 510-823-8152

Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Center  
Phone: 510-434-3988



## THE QUILTERS OF GEE'S BEND, ALABAMA

The quilters of Gee's Bend, a small town in rural Alabama, are internationally known as culture-bearers of a tradition that dates back to slavery and before. Their quilts—works of supreme and sublime craftsmanship, design, utility and art—are artifacts that stand witness to generations of challenge and triumph. They tell -- and prompt -- stories of the singular importance of community work in unifying and lifting up. They memorialize beloved community and the beloved, whose clothing is tenderly worked into captivating geometric patterns and artistry from Mother to Daughter to Granddaughter and Grandson and beyond.

Because of the quilters' organizing and work, the stories of Black history and the power of collective, intergenerational collaboration have spread far beyond the town limits of Gee's Bend. The legacy of the quilters of Gee's Bend has a rightful place at the center of the rich traditions of African American visual art, literature, music, dance and craft that indelibly define and celebrate American culture.

The Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Center's acclaimed Barbara Lee and Elihu Harris Lecture Series is pleased and humbled to present three members of the historic Gee's Bend Quilters Collective from Alabama in March of 2023 in a lecture, accompanying exhibition and public school-based activities. We are honored to welcome members of the Gee's Bend Quilting Collective -- Ms. Mary Ann Pettway, General Manager, Ms. China Pettway and Ms. Julia Pettway.

### THE BARBARA LEE AND ELIHU HARRIS LECTURE, MARCH 4, 2023

On Saturday, March 4, at 7:00 pm at the Grand Ballroom of the Oakland Marriott, 1001 Broadway, Oakland, CA. Ms. Mary Ann Pettway, Ms. China Pettway and Ms. Julia Pettway share some of their work and experiences with quilting, storytelling and song in Black history and culture and the transformative role community work plays in preserving the essential pluralism that fuels American democracy. A selection of quilts will be on view at the lecture. The Barbara Lee and Elihu Harris Lecture Series is co-presented by The Peralta Community College District, The Joyce Gordon Gallery and The Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Center.

### THE QUILTERS OF GEE'S BEND EXHIBITION, JOYCE GORDON GALLERY, MARCH 3-25, 2023

An exhibition of many-sized quilts by the Gee's Bend quilters will be on view at the Joyce Gordon Gallery March 3-25, 2023 and available for purchase. The gallery, which is located at 406 4th Street in downtown Oakland, is open to the public Wednesday through Friday 11:00am-6:00pm and Saturday 1:00-4:00pm.

This catalog presents quilts that are for sale at the gallery throughout the month of March. For more information please call Joyce Gordon at 510-465-8928 or Karen Bohlke at 206-755-3677. We thank you for supporting the quilters of Gee's Bend Quilting Collective. Enjoy!

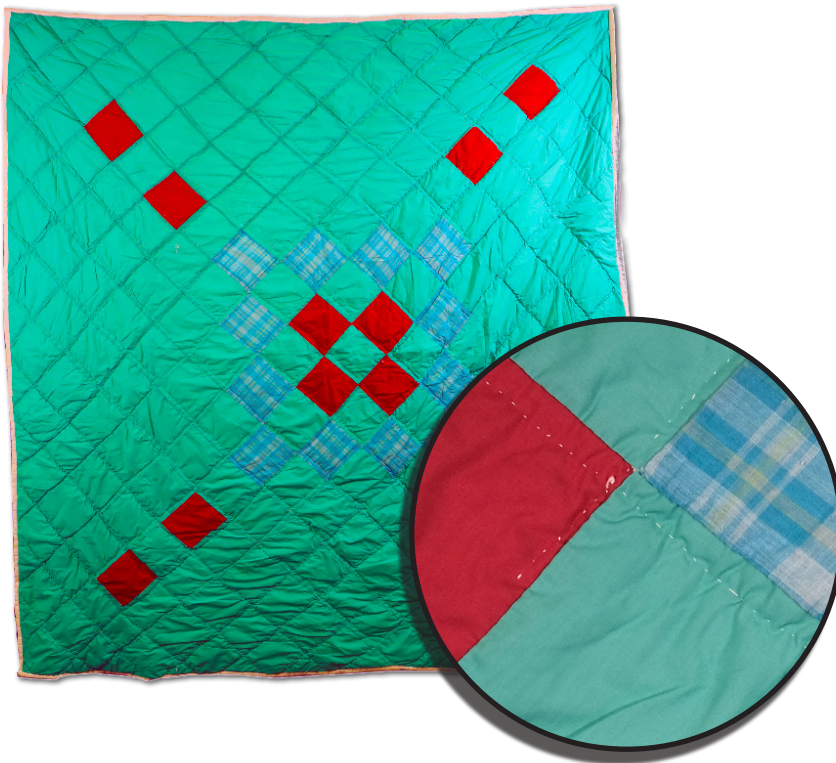
JOYCE GORDON GALLERY, 406 14TH ST, OAKLAND

# THE QUILTERS OF GEE'S BEND

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## EXHIBITION CATALOG

**March 3 - March 25, 2023**



Stitching Detail

**Title:** *The Cross*  
**Date:** None  
**Dimensions:** 74" x 76"  
**Artist:** Belinda Pettway



Stitching Detail

**Title:** *Bars Block*  
**Dimensions:** 70" x 92"  
**Artist:** Monique Pettway-Castle Berry



Stitching Detail

**Title:** *Now You See Me*  
**Date:** June 26, 2022  
**Dimensions:** 24" x 32"  
**Artist:** Alexander Smith



Stitching Detail

**Title:** *9 Patch w/ Triangles*  
**Date:** August 23, 2022  
**Dimensions:** 71" x 71"  
**Artist:** Annie Kennedy



**Title:** *You Name Me*  
**Dimensions:** 57" x 70"  
**Artist:** China Pettway

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**Title:** *Flying Geese*  
**Date:** June 26, 2022  
**Dimensions:** 79" x 80"  
**Artist:** Belinda Pettway

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**Title:** *Housetop*  
**Date:** January 14, 2022  
**Dimensions:** 69" x 88"  
**Artist:** Arlonzia Pettway



**Title:** *Bear Paw*  
**Date:** December 1, 2022  
**Dimensions:** 79" x 77"  
**Artist:** China Pettway

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**Title:** *Festive Crystals*  
**Date:** November 11, 2022  
**Dimensions:** 54" x 79"  
**Artist:** Deshuan Smith

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**Title:** *Giving Thanks*  
**Date:** September 9, 2022  
**Dimensions:** 45" x 58"  
**Artist:** Deshuan Smith

**Title:** 911  
**Dimensions:** 41" x 47"  
**Artist:** Mary Ann Pettway



**Title:** *Pigs in the Pen (#1)*  
**Dimensions:** 37" x 39"  
**Artist:** Rita Mae Pettway



**Title:** *Pigs in the Pen (#2)*  
**Dimensions:** 44" x 45"  
**Artist:** Lucy Lee Pettway-Witherspoon



**Title:** *"H" Block Quilt*  
**Dimensions:** 73" x 89"  
**Artist:** Arlonzia Pettway





**Title:** *Brick Layer*  
**Date:** May 2022  
**Dimensions:** 81" x 113"  
**Artist:** Loretta Pettway



**Title:** *Sailing Boat*  
**Date:** December 2, 2022  
**Dimensions:** 72" x 72"  
**Artist:** Julia Pettway

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**Title:** *16 Pockets Patch*  
**Dimensions:** 40" x 46"  
**Artist:** Lucy Lee Pettway-Witherspoon



**Title:** *Earth #02*  
**Date:** August 8, 2022  
**Dimensions:** 21" x 19"  
**Artist:** Mary L Pettway



**Title:** *Untitled*  
**Date:** March 11, 2020  
**Dimensions:** 20" x 26"  
**Artist:** Mary L Pettway



**Title:** *Deep Blue Sea*  
**Date:** May 7, 2022  
**Dimensions:** 30" x 29"  
**Artist:** Deshuan Smith



**Title:** *Different Paths*  
**Date:** September 9, 2022  
**Dimensions:** 35" x 19"  
**Artist:** Deshuan Smith



**Title:** *Just Before Thanksgiving*  
**Date:** November 28, 2022  
**Dimensions:** 20" x 24"  
**Artist:** Mary Ann Pettway



**Title:** *Just After Vacuuming*  
**Dimensions:** 17" x 20.5"  
**Artist:** Mary Ann Pettway



**Title:** *Just Sweeping*  
**Dimensions:** 19" x 20"  
**Artist:** Mary Ann Pettway

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**Title:** *Year Ending*  
**Date:** December 31, 2022  
**Dimensions:** 11.5" x 15"  
**Artist:** Mary Ann Pettway



**Title:** *Old Sweep*  
**Date:** 2022  
**Dimensions:** 18" x 19"  
**Artist:** Mary Ann Pettway



