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The Masterpieces that are The Quilts of Gee's Bend

Jonesboro, GA - The Clayton County Convention & Visitors Bureau is excited to announce that a new exhibit, "The Quilts of Gee's Bend" will be on display at The Arts Clayton Gallery from April 5 through May 31. This special exhibit showcases the history, artistry and dynamic work of the women from Gee's Bend, an African-American hamlet in Alabama, that took the world by storm in 2002.

The innovative women of Gee's Bend transformed their quilts from a necessity into a work of art. Starting out as a community group for social time, the women began learning from and playing off each other's ideas. From that, the unique and spirited quality of the quilts began to tell the stories of their families, community and history. In this eclectic exhibit visitors will be delighted with the mix of older and modern pieces each showing their own abstract and bold designs. The quilts tell a beautiful story with each salvaged piece used.

"We are proud to have this exhibit coming to Jonesboro this Spring. The quilts are a great piece of history and artwork that we're excited to share with the community and visitors to Clayton County," says Danielle Conroy, Director of Marketing & Communications for the Clayton County Convention & Visitors Bureau.

The Gee's Bend quilters are recognized as true artists; they blend cast-off materials together to create an art of profound beauty and power. Produced against a backdrop of poverty and racism, these artworks have an appeal that crosses social and geographical boundaries, earning the quilts wide recognition as being among the most compelling art of our time. The quilts are truly original, and the *New York Times* has called them "some of the most miraculous works of modern art America has produced."

Arts Clayton will host special programs during the exhibit that include a workshop with the ladies from Gee's Bend on Saturday, April 6. Each participant will go home with a pieced quilt square. The popular Creation Station workshops for children will feature "Kaleidoscope Quilting." The children will learn about pattern making, reinforcing their reading and math skills. In another workshop, "Talking Blocks - The Language of Quilts" they will construct a quilt block using styrofoam and fabric. Registration is required for all workshops. Reserve a space by calling the Gallery at 770.473.5410.

Clayton County Convention & Visitors Bureau

The Clayton County Convention & Visitors Bureau is the official tourism marketing agency for Clayton County. The CVB advertises and promotes the area to bring business to hotels, attractions, historical sites and meeting facilities within Clayton County and its neighboring communities.

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