

"Miraculous works of modern art!" – *The New York Times*

Gee's Bend Quilts

Gee's Bend Quilts

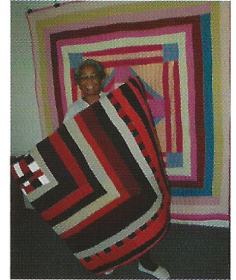
WILCOX COUNTY, ALABAMA



Colorful quilts that once kept families of sometimes 16 children warm inside drafty log cabins now hang in the world's great museums. The acclaimed quilts are created by a group of women who live in **Gee's Bend**, a virtual island surrounded by a horseshoe-shaped bend in the Alabama River about an hour's drive south of Selma.

With their innovative and often minimalist approach, the women of Gee's Bend transformed a necessity into a work of art. Visionary collector **William Arnett** heard about the women and their remarkable quilts three decades ago and began visiting, often finding masterpieces tucked under mattresses.

Since then, dozens of quilts have toured America's most important art museums, including the **Corcoran Gallery of Art** in Washington, the **Whitney Museum of American Art** in New York and the **Museum of Fine Arts** in Houston.



Buying Quilts in Gee's Bend

In 2003, the living quilters of Gee's Bend – more than 50 women in all – founded the **Gee's Bend Quilters Collective**. It serves as the exclusive means of selling and marketing the quilts. Every quilt they sell is unique, individually produced and authentic. Each quilt is signed by the quilter and labeled with a serial number. Visitors are welcome. The Collective is open irregular hours.



Driving from Montgomery (2 hours): Go west on U.S. 80 to Selma. Go west on State 22 that becomes State 5 South. Near Alberta at mile-marker 32, go southeast on County 29 for 14 miles. Turn left toward the Boykin Nutrition Site for 1 mile to the Quilters Collective. (The Collective is near the Boykin Post Office.)

Driving from Mobile (2.5 hours): Go north on U.S. 43 and exit onto State 5 north of Thomasville. At mile-marker 32, go southeast on County 29 for 14 miles. Turn left toward the Boykin Nutrition Site for 1 mile to the Quilters Collective. (The Collective is near the Boykin Post Office.)

Gee's Bend Quilters Collective

11172 Co. Rd. 29 • Alberta, AL 36720 • 334-573-2526

www.quiltsofgeesbend.com • quiltcollective@quiltsofgeesbend.com

Alabama
www.800Alabama.com

5/06 20,000
Printed in USA
For free distribution only

Generations of women in the isolated African-American settlement of **Gee's Bend** in south Alabama have created quilts from whatever materials are available, using patterns of their own design.

Working alone at home, they stitch the unique tops of quilts on frames called "horses." They periodically gather to piece together each one-of-a-kind creation at the **Quilters Collective** (above).

