

Days out and about

'Things We Do in Bed'

Until 31 October 2014

This exhibition is guest curated by bestselling author Tracy Chevalier. In her most recent book, *The Last Runaway*, her heroine is a quilter and whilst researching quilts as well as learning a lot about them Tracy also learned to quilt by hand. She says: '... I have fallen hard for the varied and miraculous artistry of quilting. With this show I explore how quilting relates to bedroom activities, in both practical and abstract ways. For traditionalists, there are jaw-dropping examples of antique quilting. For contemporary art lovers, there are works that push boundaries and emotions.'

'Things We Do in Bed' celebrates the continuing links of quilts to what goes on behind the bedroom door. The featured historical quilts, dating from the 18th and 19th centuries, have been loaned from several collections including The Quilters' Guild, and contemporary quilted work from artists such as Sara Impey, Grayson Perry, Michele Walker and others. They are displayed through the five

bedrooms of Danson House, a beautifully restored Georgian villa, with each room focusing on a different bed activity: Birth, Sleep, Sex, Illness, Death.

Danson House, Danson Park, Danson Road, Bexleyheath, Kent, DA6 8HL
www.dansonhouse.org.uk; 020 8303 6699
 Open Sun to Thurs 12 noon–5
 Adults £8, concessions £6, under 16s free; free entry with National Art Pass

'The Colourful World of Kaffe Fassett'

Until 2 November 2014

Guild patron, world-renowned knitwear and textile designer, Kaffe Fassett returns to the American Museum in Britain to celebrate his fifty years working as an artist and colourist. This retrospective exhibition, held in the Exhibition Gallery, showcases how Kaffe lives by his maxim to find colour in a grey world; designed by celebrated theatrical designer Johan Engels, the setting is as colourful as the items on show. Over one hundred works of

textile art – knitwear, needlepoint, beading and quilts – are displayed alongside mosaics and still-life paintings also by Kaffe. Nearly all the objects on view are from Kaffe's personal collection, offering a glimpse of the private man behind the public façade.

Complementing the exhibition are Kaffe's exquisite pen drawings that have not previously been shown. These were made of the American Museum's popular Period Rooms in 1964 and are a reminder that Kaffe began his career in the visual arts as a painter and illustrator. These drawings are hung in Claverton Manor, on the same floor where the Museum has its heritage quilts on view.

American Museum in Britain, Claverton Manor, Bath BA2 7BD
www.americanmuseum.org; 01225 460503
 Open Tues to Sun 12 noon–5
 Adults £9, concessions £8, 5–16 years £5

Below left:
 Cot quilt, maker unknown (possibly daughter of Mary Dennis Cann), 1850–80s

Below:
 Kaffe at the exhibition entrance



COURTESY OF THE QUILTERS' GUILD OF THE BRITISH ISLES



IMAGE BY LEON DAY



Left:
'Early to Bed' gallery

'Early to Bed'

Until 1 November 2014

This year's Welsh Quilt Centre exhibition, designed by Gwenllian Ashley, celebrates folk art and 'make do and mend'. The quilters of rural Wales unselfconsciously produced brilliant pieces of folk art. Using their innate and untrained artistry they would assemble pieces of fabric, often recycled, into lively compositions that could be balanced or quirky, classical or primitive. As an art form, folk art has long been highly prized overseas, especially in the United States, while in the UK it was long regarded as ephemeral decoration and has only recently achieved some recognition as art. The unselfconscious blend of utility and creativity still has the power to inspire today's makers, and textile artist Janet Bolton is foremost among these. Janet's textile images, simply drawn with a delightful charm and innocence, are juxtaposed with 19th-century Welsh quilts from the collections of Jen Jones, Ron Simpson, Ceredigion Museum and Brecknock Museum.

As a counterpoint to the main exhibition, in the Centre's No 2 Gallery the influential contemporary quilter, teacher and author Sandie Lush will

be exhibiting her intricate and humorous 'Sweater Quilts'. A series of workshops and courses run throughout the year.

The Welsh Quilt Centre, The Old Town Hall, Lampeter SA48 7BB
www.welshquilts.com; 01570 422088
Open Tues to Sat 11-4.30
Admission fee applies

'Turning Twenty' – the Quilt Association's summer show

14 July – 15 September 2014

This year the Quilt Association (QA) celebrates its 20th exhibition at the Minerva Arts Centre. As in previous years, the summer show will be made up of several exhibitions providing a mixture of contemporary and heritage work. The QA's own Collection now comprises over 150 quilts and related items, with pieces from 1850 to the present day, and some of the best pieces will be on show. The quilt group Welsh Heritage Quilters was started at the end of the first exhibition in 1995, and its members support the QA by helping with care of the Collection and stewarding at exhibitions and other events. At weekly meetings,

the members get together to quilt and they have produced an exhibition on the theme 'China', chosen as china is the symbol for a 20th anniversary.

The contemporary Welsh group Cwilt Cymru will be showing their exhibition 'Connection'. Each maker has explored their own interpretation of the theme, such as family experiences, history, language, industry, landscape and the natural world, resulting in a diverse and fascinating display.

Well-known contemporary quilter Sandra Meech will be showing 'Journeys – the Arctic and Beyond', a collection of art quilts and stitched textiles which traces a journey from a visit to Baker Lake, an Inuit settlement in northern Canada, to a more recent theme that is inspired by melting ice and the effects of global warming. Sandra is also tutoring 'Less is More', a three-day Summer School that runs 29-31 July.

The Quilt Association, The Minerva Arts Centre, High Street, Llanidloes SY18 6BY
www.quilt.org.uk; 01686 413467
Open Mon to Sat 10.30-4.30
Adults £4, concessions £3.50, accompanied children free

Below:
'Journeys – the Arctic and Beyond'
by Sandra Meech

