

ART HISTORY INSIGHTS

OCTOBER 2020

The monthly newsletter that brings you selected articles of interest and opinion from the world of art history and visual culture. This issue focuses on Art, Craft and Industry, which links with the theme of our forthcoming Global New Voices virtual postgraduate research conference.

HOW THE PATTERN & DECORATION MOVEMENT CHALLENGED MACHISMO MODERNISM

Artists Valerie Jaudon and Joyce Kozloff were central figures in the 1970s Pattern and Decoration movement. They set out to challenge modernism's white male-centric concept of what constituted 'good art', and the notion that decorative and applied arts were not of 'a lesser order'. Today, the movement resonates with our current moment, looking ahead as it did to the plurality of traditions and cultures celebrated in today's art world, to its rejection of sexist and ethnocentric biases and its aspirations of inclusivity. As one writer puts it, "What was on the table—the chopping block, as it turned out - were the very systems of valuation that had dominated Western art history for centuries, and the primary focus was the hierarchy of fine arts above decorative arts".

<https://www.artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-pattern-decoration-movement-challenged-machismo-modernism>

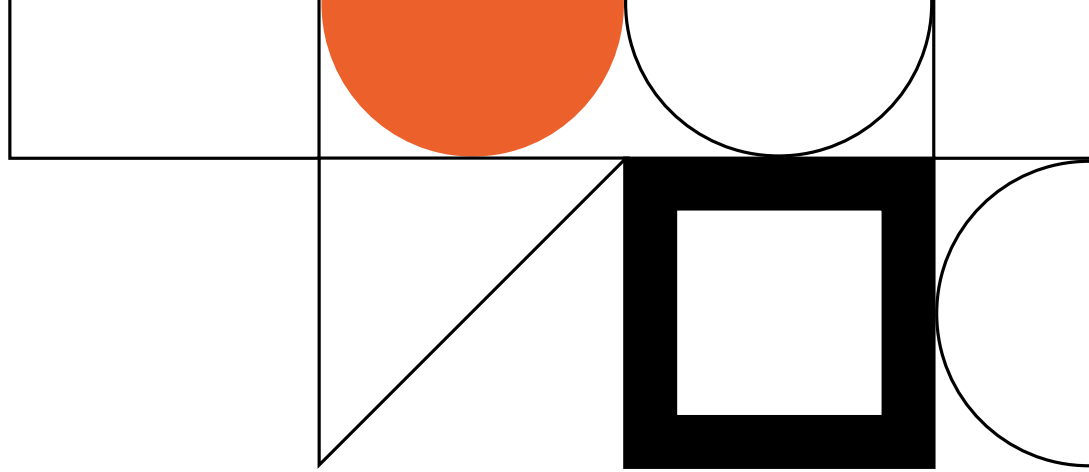
THE GEE'S BEND QUILTERS

Quilts from the Alabama hamlet of Gee's Bend have been sought after and prized by museums. For the past century, women such as Annie Mae Young, Loretta Pettway and Mary Lee Bendolph have stitched together fabric in different shapes, sizes and colours to create quilts like no other. Whilst rooted in folk tradition the practice gathered momentum during the Civil Rights movement with the Freedom Quilting Bee, a co-operative set up in 1966 across Alabama's Black Belt to enable women to sell their work at auction and through department stores, including Bloomingdales and Sears. See more.

<https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/article/ra-magazine-gees-bend-quilters>

WHO WERE THE WOMEN ARTISTS OF THE ARTS & CRAFTS MOVEMENT?

An insightful review of *Women Art Workers and the Arts and Crafts Movement*. This new book by Zoë Thomas introduces us to about two hundred female artists who practised (between 1880-1925) in what might be called the craft-arts, such as enamelling, metalwork, sculpted



reliefs, stained glass, a slice of the English fin de siècle world, mostly set in middle-class respectability. According to the reviewer 'what arises is revelatory.

https://margaretrope.wordpress.com/2020/08/25/eye-opening-new-book/amp/?__twitter_impression=true

FLORENCE CAMM AN ARTIST AT THE HEART OF BRITAIN'S STAINED GLASS INDUSTRY

Florence Camm (1874-1960) was one of the most talented and successful stained glass designers of her time. She and her brothers took over her fathers glass business in Smethwick from 1912. She studied at Birmingham School of Art (now part of the university, with whom we are working for the Association's 2021 Annual Conference). Camm exhibited her work multiple times in London as well as in other major exhibitions in Britain and Europe. Her use of vivid colours and Pre-Raphaelite and Edwardian realism are regarded as some of the most outstanding stained glass produced in the Midlands. Get a closer look at her work in Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery in this article.

<https://www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/blog/posts/volunteer-views-arts-and-crafts-and-modernism-in-glass-by-florence-camm>

MARY LINWOOD NEEDLEPAINTER

Born in Birmingham in 1756 needlewoman Mary Linwood produced a large number of pictures. She specialised in full size copies of old master paintings that were worked using a combination of irregular and sloping stitches to more closely resemble paint, known as needlepainting. In 1809, her collection moved into a permanent gallery at Savile House, Leicester Square, the former studio of Sir Joshua Reynolds. After her death in 1845 her collection was offered to the British Museum, but was declined. Instead it was sold for only £300.

<http://numberonelondon.net/2019/01/a-legacy-of-needlework-part-three-mary-linwood/>

ANOTHER ART HISTORY, WOMEN ARTISTS OF THE BAUHAUS

Born in Birmingham in 1756 needlewoman Mary Linwood A central goal of the Bauhaus school was to create a hub of interdisciplinary innovation, that which combined craft and design to foster a community as a foundation of learning. Part of this ideology was the integration of women artists in the community. So, although the Bauhaus movement was largely populated by women, the seminal works that are remembered in art historical retellings are those of Walter Gropius, Josef Albers, Wassily Kandinsky and Paul Klee, basically the men. So who were the women artists of the Bauhaus? Find out more about Gunta Stölzl, Anni Albers, Marianne Brandt, Benita Koch-Otte, Otti Berger, Gertrude Arndt, Alma Siedhoff-Buscher, and Margarete Heymann.

https://www.artspace.com/magazine/art_101/in_depth/the-other-art-history-the-forgotten-women-of-bauhaus-55526

YOUR INSIGHTS

We promote a broad and inclusive art history, and look to engage with as wide an audience as possible. Please get in touch with articles you think may be of interest for our newsletter. We welcome all content suggestions.

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