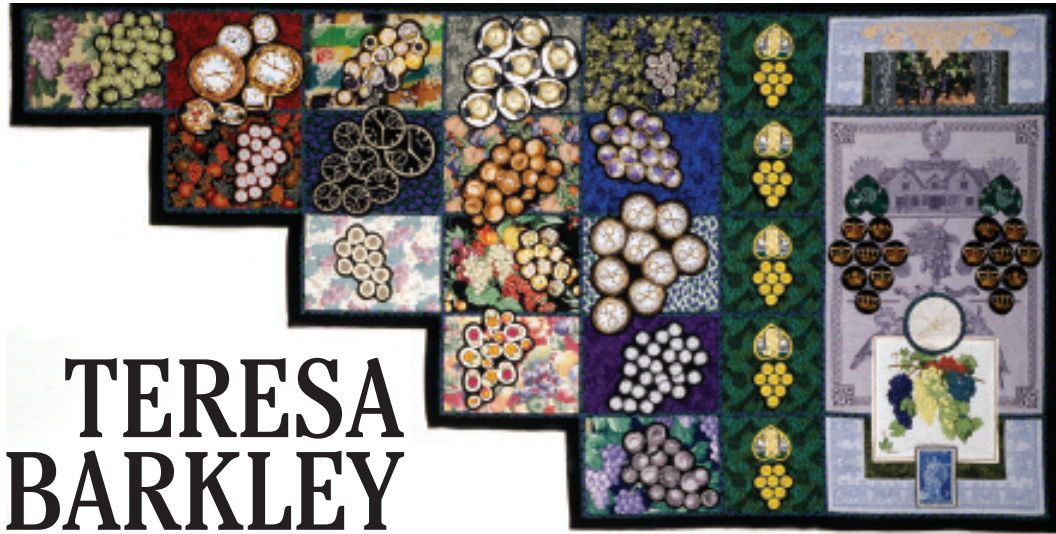


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Stamford **Museum**
& **Nature Center**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Matthew 20, 1996; 108 x 56 inches

**TERESA
BARKLEY**

**November 18
through
April 1, 2007**

A Life in Quilts

(Stamford, CT) — Besides their utilitarian uses, quilts have been considered an art form for years. But artist Teresa Barkley takes the medium to new heights by including in her fabric collages brilliant, insightful commentary on contemporary life, and current and historical events. Her works are so unique they have been eagerly sought after by museums, universities, and corporate and individual collectors throughout the country.

Beginning Saturday, November 18, 2006, the **Stamford Museum & Nature Center** in Stamford CT will present the exhibition ***Teresa Barkley: A Life in Quilts***, showcasing an extraordinary series from the artist's one hundred plus, one-of-a-kind creations, executed over the past 35 years. Guest curator **Susan Isaacs**, professor of Art History at Towson University in Maryland and Adjunct Curator at the Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts, organized the show, which will be on display in SM&NC's Bendel Mansion Museum galleries until April 1, 2007. On view are eighteen quilts dating from 1981 through 2002, which are representative of the artist's style. The exhibition is made possible, in part, by the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism.

"We are so pleased to present this clever, humorous, and richly-artistic quilt exhibition of the masterful work of Teresa Barkley," said Melissa H. Mulrooney, Executive Director of the Stamford Museum & Nature Center.

Barkley uses vintage fabrics, found objects, clothing labels and other materials in her quilts, which often follow a postage-stamp compositional arrangement. "While patchwork is by its nature a collection of different materials, I carry the process a step further by incorporating 'found object' materials," the artist once explained. "I achieve a collage composition by joining new fabrics with such old materials as printed feed sacks, linen children's book pages, old lace, canvas money bags, and commemorative handkerchiefs." Her quilts are machine-pieced, hand appliquéed, and either machine- or hand-quilted.

Barkley believes that the found materials provide a link to the past, as do postage stamps which were used to commemorate important events and individuals from the past. She says her use of signs and symbols also allow her to investigate emblematic approaches to her subjects, linking her to the longstanding American quilt tradition of women voicing their social and political agendas through textile works.



According to Dr. Isaacs, Barkley's works exhibit humor and offer political perspective, but also demonstrate a dynamic mixture of sources and influences that include Barkley's training in textile design, her work as a pattern maker for 21 years in the New York City garment industry, and the sewing and collecting traditions of her family.

Barkley completed her first large-scale quilts while still in high school. The originality of her approach was immediately recognized, resulting in her inclusion in the decisive 1976 exhibition, *The New American Quilt*, at the American Craft Museum in New York City (now the Museum of Arts & Design). Her works have also been featured in exhibitions in Africa, Australia, Europe, and Japan. She was awarded the prestigious Quilts Japan Prize at Quilt National '97. Among the many collections in which her work is found are: the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Renwick Gallery, Washington, DC; The Newark Museum, Newark, NJ; the International Quilt Study Center, University of Nebraska, Lincoln; and Nihon Vogue, Tokyo, Japan.

In conjunction with *Teresa Barkley: A Life in Quilts*, the Stamford Museum & Nature Center will present the following programs and activities:

RELATED PROGRAMS

November 18 through April 1

BUILD YOUR OWN SQUARE

Children's Corner with sitting area

Read quilt-related books and make a quilt square from pattern shapes provided. Free with Museum admission.

Tuesdays, 10 am to noon

STITCH AND CHAT: SM&NC'S QUILTING BEE DEMONSTRATIONS

Museum Building

See a quilting bee in action. For the duration of this exhibition, the SM&NC's quilting group—which has met at the Museum for the past 25 years—will hold quilting demonstrations. The group's latest quilt will be raffled off during the Museum's Spring on the Farm day on May 20, 2007.

Saturdays: December 2, 16, 2006; January 6, 20; February 10, 24, 2007, 2 pm

GALLERY TOURS in the Museum's galleries

Enjoy these 20-minute, guided walk-throughs of the exhibition led by the Museum's curator, Rosa Portell.

Saturday, January 20, 2007, 11 am to 3 pm

THE ABCs OF QUILTING: A SERIES OF WORKSHOPS BY THE NORTHERN STAR QUILTER'S GUILD

in the Museum Building

"Art Quilting Techniques," "Beyond the Basics," and "Crazy Quilting to Collage"

Medium and advanced skill levels required.

Saturday, February 3, 2007, 11 am to 12:30 pm

A STITCH IN TIME

in the Museum Building

A riotous performance by **Seven Quilts for Seven Sisters**, an African-American troupe, whose lively performances depict the joys of sisterhood and the trials of slavery in the Old South, and how quilting helped people cope. The program features song, dance, history, stories, skits, and a show of quilts. It is a rich blend of historical information, authentic period costumes, heartwarming tall tales, and soul-stirring spirituals.

Tuesday, February 13, 2007, 10:30 am

MEET THE ARTIST: TERESA BARKLEY LECTURE AND EXHIBITION WALK-THROUGH

Museum Building

Here's an extraordinary opportunity to meet the world-renowned Teresa Barkley face-to-face. You'll gain valuable insights into the creative process involved in art quilting.

The Stamford Museum & Nature Center is dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of art, the natural and agricultural sciences, and history. The Museum is a vital cultural and educational resource for the community, and a focal point for family activity and interaction, seeking to inspire creativity, foster self-discovery, and nurture an appreciation for lifelong learning through exhibitions, educational programs, and special events that enhance the visitor's experience on its unique site.



The Stamford Museum & Nature Center is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

Hours

Heckscher Farm: Daily 9 am–5 pm

Nature's Playground: Daily 9 am–5 pm

Bendel Mansion Museum| Main Building

Mon–Sat 9 am–5 pm

Sun 11 am–5 pm

Overbrook Building

Closed for renovation

Admission Fees

SM&NC members: free; special discounts at Family Festival Days

Stamford residents: always free on Wednesdays

Adults \$8

Seniors (65+) \$6

Students (18+) \$6 with valid ID

Children (4–17) \$4

Children (3 and younger) Free

Planetarium Show: Adults \$3; Children 5 and older \$2

Observatory: Adults \$3; Children \$2, Friday nights, 8-10 pm,
weather permitting