

Press Release for IHQ

International Honor Quilt Exhibition Receives Regional Exhibition Award

On Wednesday, October 12, 2016 the Southeastern Museums Conference in Charlotte, NC will honor the Hite Art Institute at University of Louisville with a silver award for the exhibition *Capturing Women's History: Quilts, Activism, & Storytelling* that was on display from February 1-March 19, 2016. Featuring the *International Honor Quilt*, initiated in 1980, the Southeastern Museums Conference award attests to the continual relevance of feminist issues using quilting and other media traditionally associated with women's work. The *International Honor Quilt* was created as a companion for the seminal *Dinner Party*, an installation artwork by feminist artist Judy Chicago. Widely regarded as the first epic feminist artwork, it functions as a symbolic history of women in Western civilization. The *International Honor Quilt* (IHQ) is a collaborative, grassroots feminist art project initiated by Judy Chicago to "extend the spirit of the *Dinner Party*" on its tour throughout North America, Europe and Australia. It consists of a collection of 542 individual quilts that can be assembled into a multi-sectional, monumental work of art. The panels, which utilize a wide variety of materials and techniques, have been made by different women or groups honoring and addressing individually selected women, women's organizations, or women's issues, to expand the number of women honored by Chicago's *Dinner Party*.

Capturing Women's History: Quilts, Activism, & Storytelling uniquely combines the essence of quilting as a part of the exhibit design while also incorporating new media. Viewers are able to scan quick response codes leading to videos highlighting stories of selected quilts. In addition, the ability to scroll through the digital database of the entire collection using wall-mounted iPads is another unique feature of the exhibition. Maggie Leininger, the exhibition

designer and director of the collection, organized the quilts in sections of related colors and materials to emphasize the relationship between traditional quilting patterns.

In 2013, the *International Honor Quilt* was gifted to the University of Louisville by Through the Flower, a non-profit organization developed by Judy Chicago to promote feminist art. The Hite Art Institute within the University of Louisville acknowledges Shelly Zegart's, invaluable role as the catalyst in the placement of the *International Honor Quilt* at the University. Currently, the collection resides at the University of Louisville and is available for study by appointment.