

# FORT GANSEVOORT

## YVONNE WELLS

1939 Born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, United States

## EDUCATION

1964 BA, Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, AL

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *Beyond Patchwork: The Abstractions of Yvonne Wells*, Fort Gansevoort, New York, NY  
*Picture This: The Story Quilts of Yvonne Wells*, Paul R. Jones Museum, Tuscaloosa, AL
- 2023-2024 *Spotlight Series, American South Consortium Exhibition: Yvonne Wells*, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery, AL; Columbia Museum of Art, Columbia, SC; Mobile Museum of Art, Mobile, AL; Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, CT (traveling exhibition)
- 2023 *Yvonne Wells: Play The Hand That's Dealt You*, Fort Gansevoort, New York, NY
- 2022 *Yvonne Wells*, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery, AL
- 2021 *Yvonne Wells: The Stories We Tell, In collaboration with Jessica Lynne*, Fort Gansevoort (online exhibition)
- 2013 *Piecing Together History: Civil Rights Quilts by Yvonne Wells*, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery, AL
- 2012 *Telling Stories: Quilted Art by Yvonne Wells*, Carnegie Visual Arts Center, Decatur, AL
- 2011-2012 *Yvonne Wells: Quilted Messages*, International Quilt Museum, University of Nebraska Lincoln, Lincoln, NE

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *Patterns in Abstraction: Black Quilts from the High's Collection*, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA  
*Spin A Yarn*, Guild Hall, Hampton, NY  
*One Stitch at a Time: Southern Vernacular Quilts*, LSU Museum of Art, Baton Rouge, LA  
*Voices Carry: Art by Alabama Women*, Birmingham Public Library, Birmingham, AL  
*WRONGED*, Galerie Marguo, Paris, France
- 2023-2024 *Quilting a Future: Contemporary Quilts and American Tradition*, Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, OH
- 2023 *Strike Fast, Dance Lightly: Artists on Boxing*, FLAG Art Foundation, New York, NY  
*Feeling of light*, Almine Rech, Brussels, Belgium
- 2021 *Charlie Lucas and Yvonne Wells: What I Knew How to Do*, EBSCO Fine Art Gallery, The Shelby County Arts Council, Columbiana, AL; Wiregrass Museum of Art, Dothan, AL (traveling exhibition)

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*Good Trouble: Civil Rights Past & Present*, Kentuck Art Center, Northport, AL

- 2020 *Pieces and Patterns: Quilts of West Alabama*, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery, AL
- 2018 *The Original Makers: Folk Art from the Cargo Collection*, Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, AL
- 2017-18 *From Heart To Hand: African-American Quilts from the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts*, Albany Museum of Art, Albany, GA
- 2015-2016 *African-American Quilts from the Cargo Collection*, International Quilt Museum, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE
- 2014 Creator/Created, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery, AL  
*From Heart to Hand: African-American Quilts from the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts*, DePaul Art Museum, Chicago, IL; Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, NJ (traveling exhibition)
- 2011 *Black History Month at GMA*, Gadsden Museum of Art, Gadsden, AL
- 2008 *Stitching History: The Story Quilts of Yvonne Wells*, Cloisters of Saint Augustine, Pietrasanta, Italy  
*Quilts and Human Rights*, Michigan State University Museum, MI
- 2000 *Alabama Art 2000*, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery, AL; N.A.L.L. Art Association, Vence, France; Museum of Tourettes sur Loup, Tourettes sur Loup, France (traveling exhibition)
- 1992 *Narrations: The Quilts of Yvonne Wells and Carolyn Mazloomi*, Louisville Visual Art Association, Louisville, KY
- 1991 *Quilts: The Patterns of History*, Castle Gallery at New Rochelle College, New Rochelle, NY
- 1989 *Stitching Memories: African American Story Quilts*, Williams College Museum of Art, Williamstown, MA
- 1987 *The Art of Black America*, Terada Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

## AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2024 The Joan Mitchell Foundation Fellowship
- 2019 Creative Director of Tuscaloosa 200 Bicentennial project & memory quilt  
Governor's Arts Award
- 1998 Alabama Arts and Visual Craftsmen Award
- 1993 Created an ornament for the White House Christmas Tree

## PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

# FORT GANSEVOORT

Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts, Little Rock, AR  
Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, AL  
Bunker, West Palm Beach, FL  
Flint Institute of Arts, Flint, MI  
Henry Ford Museum, Dearborn, MI  
High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA  
International Quilt Museum, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE  
Kentuck Art Center, Northport, AL  
Mobile Museum of Art, Mobile, AL  
Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery, AL  
Nasher Museum of Art, Duke University, Durham, NC  
Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington D.C.  
Wiregrass Museum of Art, Dothan, AL  
Weisman Art Museum, Minneapolis, MN

## PUBLICATIONS

- 2024      Morgan, Stacy, and Yvonne Wells. *The Story Quilts of Yvonne Wells*. Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press, 2024.
- Lamar, Jay. *Old enough: Southern women artists and writers on creativity and aging*. Athens, GA: NewSouth Books, 2024.
- 2019      Knight, Elliot A., ed. *Alabama Creates: 200 Years of Art and Artists*. Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press, 2019.
- Morgan, Stacy. "Yvonne Wells: Stitching Stories." *Alabama Arts*. vol. XXVIII, no. 1, 2019.
- 2018      *The Original Makers: Folk Art from the Cargo Collection*. Birmingham: Birmingham Museum of Art, 2018.
- 2013      Crown, Carol and Cheryl Rivers. *Folk Art, The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, v. 23. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2013.
- 2011      Morgan, Stacy. "Anything I Can Stick a Needle In': An Interview with Yvonne Wells." *Journal of Comparative Poetics*. no. 31. Cairo: American University in Cairo. 2011.
- 2000      Hollis, Nall, ed. *Alabama Arts 2000*. Montgomery: Black Belt Press, 2000.
- Brown, Elizabeth Via. "International Exposure for Alabama's Visual Artists." *Alabama Arts*, vol. XVI, no. 1. Montgomery: Alabama State Council on the Arts, 2000.
- 1994      Kemp, Kathy. *Revelations: Alabama's Visionary Folk Artists*. Birmingham: Crane Hill Publishers, 1994.
- 1989      Grudin, Eva Ungar. *Stitching Memories: African-American Story Quilts*. Williamstown: Williams College Museum of Art, 1989.

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## PRESS

- 2025 Samples, Heather. "Touch and Go: Artists Yvonne Wells, Liam Lee, and Misha Japanwala talk bodies, homes, and how to get out of your own head." *Tidal Magazine*. Issue no. 20. Spring/Summer 2025.
- Gill, Jenny. "In the Studio: Yvonne Wells." Joan Mitchell Foundation. April 21.
- 2024 Saltz, Jerry. "The Best New York Art Shows of 2024 Outsiders, Renaissance masterpieces, crazy quilts, and more." *Vulture*. December 6.
- Limnander, Armand. "The Time Is Now: 14 Artists Envision Political Posters For the 2024 Election." *M Magazine*. October 15.
- Cassady, Daniel. "13 Highlights from 'Artists for Kamala' Benefit Sale, Including Works by Jeff Koons, George Condo, and More" *ARTnews*. October 4.
- White, Katie. "Yvonne Wells Started Quilting at 40. Now, at 85, the Art World Is Finally Taking Notice." *Artnet*. October 3.
- Saltz, Jerry. "Yvonne Well's Patchwork Histories." *New York Magazine*. September 20.
- Wally, Maxine. "At 85, Artist Yvonne Wells Is Having a Milestone Moment." *W Magazine*. September 19.
- Martin-Gachot, Ella. "Yvonne Wells Doesn't Care If You Call Her Art 'Folk or Fine.' She Just Wants to Keep Creating." *Culture*, September 13.
- Saltz, Jerry. "Fall Preview 2024: 10 Art Shows We Can't Wait to See This Fall." *New York Magazine*. August 27.
- "Joan Mitchell Foundation Announces 2024 Fellowships." *Artforum*. August 14.
- "Beyond Patchwork: The Abstraction of Yvonne Wells." *Art Plugged*. August 1.
- Kinselle, Eileen. "A Sharp New Show Highlights The Many Ways Artists Have Woven Meaning Into Textiles." *Artnet News*. May 23.
- Richardson, Maggie Heyn. "Quilts are Trendy. Experience Their Beauty and Significance at the LSU Museum of Art's New Exhibition, 'One Stitch at a Time'." *225 Magazine*. April 12.
- 2023 Zeigler, Jim. "Mobile Museum of Art exhibit, talk to memorialize Negro Baseball League." *1819 News*. November 29.
- Columbia Museum of Art, "Columbia Museum of Art participates in the Art Bridges Cohort Program." *Columbia Star*. July 27.
- Joo, Ye-rin. "We are all friends! Catch the happiness." *Arts in Culture*. July.

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Stern, Melissa. "Yvonne Wells at Fort Gansevoort Gallery." *Amsterdam News*. June 29.

Jacobs, Poppy. "Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts recognizes Alabama quiltmaker in spotlight series." *Alabama Public Radio*. April 6.

- 2022      Marshall, Brittany. "Tuscaloosa NAACP to host its first-ever Juneteenth weened celebration." *Tuscaloosa Thread*. June 13.
- 2019      Cobb, Mark Hughes. "Tuscaloosa quilter Yvonne Wells earns Governor's Arts Award." *Tuscaloosa News*. June 24.
- Frazier, Terri Cowart. "Yvonne Wells' works with fabric are truly pieces of art." *The Vicksburg Post*. February 10.
- 2014      Schwendener, Martha. "The Practical Art of Quilting." *The New York Times*. November 15.
- 2003      Lacey, Tiffany. "The Quilter: Yvonne Wells." *Tuscaloosa News*. December 2.