The AT&T Gee’s Bend Quilters Spoken-Word Tour

Prairie View A&M University
Tuesday October 16th 2007
1:30 PM
All Are Welcome to This Incredible Program

The women of Gee’s Bend have been recognized by everyone from New York’s Whitney Museum to the U.S. Postal Service for making quilts that have been hailed by the critics with The New York Times as “some of the most miraculous works of modern art America has produced.” Since the success of these artisans’ debut exhibition in 2002, a new tour has been formed and five of this fifty-woman collective are bringing a new show to Prairie View. AT&T Proudly sponsors a performance of story telling, song and spoken word poetry that celebrates the vibrant heritage of this historic community.

Gee’s Bend is a small rural community nestled into a curve in the Alabama River southwest of Selma, Alabama. Founded in antebellum times on the site of cotton plantations owned by Joseph Gee, the town’s women developed a distinctive, bold, and sophisticated quilting style based on traditional American (and African American) quilts, but with a geometric simplicity reminiscent of Amish quilts and modern art. The women of Gee’s Bend passed their skills and aesthetic down through at least six generations to the present and in 2002, an exhibition of seventy quilt masterpieces from the Bend was shown at the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston. Since then, the “Quilts of Gee’s Bend” exhibition has visited 12 cities. These quilt makers have been featured in hundreds of print and broadcast media organizations including Newsweek, NPR, CBS News Sunday Morning, House and Garden, and Oprah’s O magazine. For more information, visit www.quiltsofgeesbend.com.

AT&T wants to help deliver the women’s inspirational story and ensure it is preserved,” said Tracy Brown, AT&T multicultural marketing manager. Quilts made by the women of Gee’s Bend are currently being featured in AT&T broadband marketing introduced earlier this summer – including television, print, direct mail, and Internet ads. While the ad campaign runs through the end of September, the tour is scheduled to visit Historically Black Colleges and Universities throughout the fall – such as Winston Salem State University, Shaw University in Raleigh, Detroit’s Wayne State and Prairie View A&M University in Prairie View, Texas. AT&T’s long heritage serving the African-American community stems from the company’s commitment to diversity at every level. The relationship with The Quiltmakers of Gee’s Bend is just the most recent commitment to celebrate and preserve African-American culture.

Though this event is being hosted by the 4th Floor Exhibit Space of the John B. Coleman Library, an afternoon performance will occur in Willie Albert Tempton, Sr. Memorial Student Center at 1:30 pm on Tuesday, October 16, 2007. This event is free of charge and open to the public. For additional details about this event, please link onto the up and coming events page of the John B. Coleman Library website at http://www.tamu.edu/pvamu/library/ or call Lauren Kelley at 936-261-1523.