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**THE MERCER MUSEUM PRESENTS:  
THE MARY SCHAFFER COLLECTION: A LEGACY OF QUILT HISTORY**  
*Exhibit showcases an important early collector, designer and popularizer of quilts*

**DOYLESTOWN, PA:** (April 27, 2017) – The Mercer Museum will host *The Mary Schaffer Collection: A Legacy of Quilt History*, an exhibition that explores the life and work of an important early collector, designer, maker, and popularizer of quilts and quilting traditions. The show will be on view at the Mercer from **May 13 – August 13**, and will feature 25 quilts that reflect the varying aspects of Schaffer's interests and work, from the nineteenth-century quilts she collected and documented, to her own exquisite work, sometimes created in collaboration with other needleworkers.

Born in Austria-Hungary in 1910 and later immigrating to the United States, Mary Schaffer would become one of an important group of women who kept quilt studies alive between World War II and the 1970s revival of interest in quilts. A resident of Michigan for most of her life, Schaffer has long been recognized as one of the forerunners of quilt studies as well as the developer of one of the most important quilt history collections in the country.

The intricate and colorful quilts on display in *The Mary Schaffer Collection: A Legacy of Quilt History*, are supplemented with biographical information that draws from Schaffer's collection of her own letters and other ephemera, acquired by the Michigan State University Museum. The result is an often very personal expression of her work, friendships and her lifelong efforts "to raise in popular esteem" the appreciation of quilts and their history.

Complementing the exhibition will be a variety of quilt-related programs. On May 13, Gwen Marston, author of *Mary Schafer American Quilt Maker*, will offer a lecture at 1 p.m. and gallery walk through the exhibit at 2:30 p.m. An *Antique and Vintage Quilt Appraisal Day* with quilt experts Dana Balsamo and Dawn Heefner will be held on Saturday, June 3 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. The cost is \$30 (1 quilt per visitor). Attendees can pre-register by calling 215-348-9461. Author and quilter, Meg Cox offers an entertaining look at the history of quilting in the program *What is a Quilt and Why You Should Make One* on Thursday, June 15. The program is \$12 per person. For the complete schedule of quilt programs, visit the Mercer Museum's online calendar of events at [www.mercermuseum.org](http://www.mercermuseum.org).

On display adjoining the quilt exhibition will be *The Sharon Holloway Dollhouse and Miniatures Collection* featuring five elaborate structures including a Mansard-roofed Victorian home, a Colonial Revival home (including a detached garage and gazebo), a country store and quilt shop, a Georgian Revival townhouse and garden setting, and a country vernacular structure complete with carpenter gothic trim. Three of the buildings are electrified and all are fully furnished. Each either opens, or is cutaway to reveal its highly-detailed interior.

*The Mary Schafer Collection: A Legacy of Quilt History* is included with museum admission. Mercer Museum admission is \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors (65+) and \$8 for youth (6-17). Under age 6 and members are free.

*The Mary Schafer Collection: A Legacy of Quilt History* is locally sponsored by: Pine Run Retirement Community, Mary Jane Clemens, Jim and Kathy Morrison and Barbara Fighera Harrison.

### **About the Mary Schafer Collection**

This traveling exhibition is a Michigan State University Museum/Great Lakes Quilt Center, Michigan Traditional Arts Program activity supported in part by funds from Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs. Additional support provided by Kitty Clark Cole and Country Stitches. You can find more about Mary Schafer on these web pages:

[http://museum.msu.edu/glqc/collections\\_special\\_schafer.html](http://museum.msu.edu/glqc/collections_special_schafer.html)

### **About the Mercer Museum**

The Mercer Museum, one of Bucks County's premier tourist attractions, offers visitors a unique window into pre-Industrial America as seen through the implements used in everyday life. The Museum's collection includes more than 40,000 objects exhibiting the tools of more than 60 different crafts and trades, providing one of the world's most comprehensive portraits of material culture in America. The museum celebrated its Centennial in 2016. The Mercer Museum is located at Pine Street & Scout Way in Doylestown and is open for self-guided exploration 7 days a week. For more information, call 215-345-0210 or visit [www.mercermuseum.org](http://www.mercermuseum.org).

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