



NEWS RELEASE

County Museum

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African American Quilts at Victor Valley Museum

"Facing the Rising Sun" honors Black History Month

A new exhibit, "Facing the Rising Sun: African American Storytelling through the Art of Quilts," opens at the Victor Valley Museum Feb. 1. The show is organized in partnership with Dreamers, Visionaries and Leaders in honor of Black History Month. The exhibit of contemporary quilts features the work of Gwendolyn D. Humphries, Theresa Polley-Shellcroft, Norma J. Fullen, and Delena M. Hale and continues through Feb. 28. A presentation by quilter Polley-Shellcroft takes place Sunday, Feb. 18, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Museum Director Melissa Russo said, "These quilts are a loving manifestation of individual stories and family history. Quilting has an important place in American art history and it is our privilege to exhibit these extraordinary examples for the public."

"I was born to be an artist," said Polley-Shellcroft, "there is no doubt in my mind, my heart or my spirit." Her artworks (paintings and fiber arts) have shown all over the country from galleries in the SOHO/Chelsea art district of New York City to smaller galleries around the United States. Her quilts are in the collections of the Anacostia Museum of the Smithsonian Institution and the National Afro-American Museum at Wilberforce, Ohio.

Gwen Humphries began quilting in 2012. A speech pathologist, she is retired from San Bernardino County Schools and now works with a charter school in Adelanto. "My earliest impression of quilting was the influence of my Grandmother Essie Stewart (Honey). She was a member of a church and social quilting group. The fascination for me was the ability to take bits of clothing and turn them into works of beauty," said Humphries. "I believe that African American quilters have always been innovative in their use of materials as a matter of survival."

"Facing the Rising Sun" and the museum's other exciting events and programs reflect the effort by the Board of Supervisors to achieve the [Countywide Vision](#) by celebrating arts, culture, and education in the county, creating quality of life for residents and visitors.

The Victor Valley Museum is a branch of the San Bernardino County Museum located at 11873 Apple Valley Road in Apple Valley. The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission to the exhibit and museum is \$5 (adult), \$4 (senior or military), and \$2.50 (student). EBT cardholders and their families are admitted for \$1. Children under 5 and San Bernardino County Museum Association members are free. Parking is free. For more information, visit www.sbcounty.gov/museum. The museum is accessible to persons with disabilities.

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