

The Sandman's Garden *at the Missouri History Museum in Forest Park*

Friday **SEPTEMBER 11**

Lee Auditorium

7 p.m.

FREE

Closes September 13!

Mary Lee Bendolph, Gee's Bend Quilts, and Beyond



Louisiana P. Bendolph,
Housetop Medallion, 2003



Mary Lee Bendolph,
Blocks and Strips, 2005



Mary Lee Bendolph,
Strips and Strings, 2005



Essie Bendolph Pettway,
Blocks and One Patch, 1973

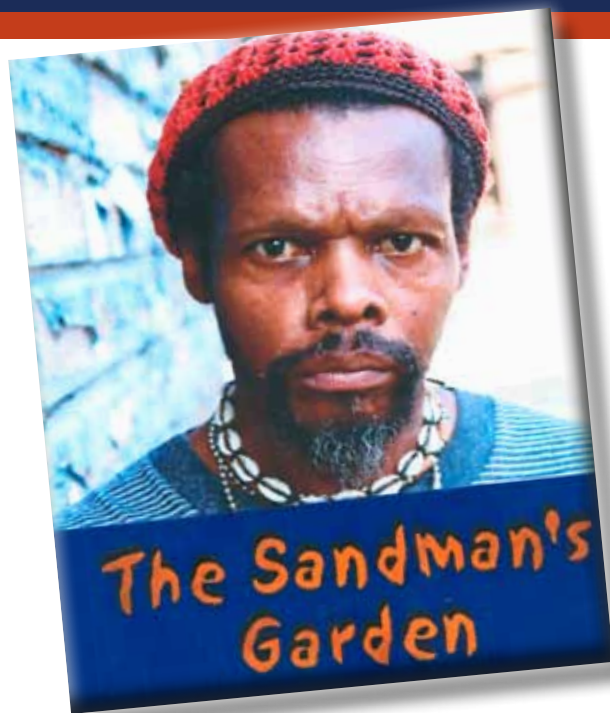
Isolated from much of the surrounding countryside, the citizens of Gee's Bend, Alabama, developed a distinctive local culture — with the communal creation of strikingly innovative, abstract quilts taking center stage. Crafted from simple strips of old clothes and blocks of recycled fabric, Gee's Bend quilts transcend their original utilitarian purpose to become astonishing works of contemporary art.

Mary Lee Bendolph, Gee's Bend Quilts, and Beyond highlights one of Gee's Bend's most original artists, Mary Lee Bendolph, her predecessors and progeny, and the artistic dialogue they share with artists beyond their quilting community.

Mary Lee Bendolph, Gee's Bend Quilts, and Beyond is co-organized by the Austin Museum of Art and Tinwood Alliance, Atlanta.

The exhibition is presented by Fidelity Investments.

The exhibition catalogue is sponsored by Anderson Rogers Foundation.



The women of Gee's Bend know the value of resourcefulness. Just as they incorporate discarded items into their quilts, so does artist **Lonnie Holley** use cast-offs in his work. *The Sandman's Garden* looks at the life and art of this self-taught artist based in Birmingham, Alabama. Commissioned by the Birmingham Museum of Art to create a sculpture garden, the film follows Holley as he builds a sculptural environment out of discarded materials and found objects, creating pieces that are by turns profound, playful and deeply moving. As we watch the garden grow, we also learn about Holley, his tortured past and the ways in which he has used art to overcome his obstacles and express his ideas. (Running time: 66 minutes).

Stay after the film for a Q&A with Lonnie Holley.

Before the film, be sure to visit *Mary Lee Bendolph, Gee's Bend Quilts, and Beyond*, which features examples of Holley's artwork.

MISSOURI HISTORY MUSEUM

Lindell & DeBaliviere in Forest Park
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