Handstitched Worlds: The Cartography of Quilts is an invitation to read quilts as maps, tracing the paths of individual stories and experiences that illuminate larger historic events and cultural trends. Spanning the nineteenth to the twenty-first centuries, the exhibition brings together 23 quilts from the collection of the American Folk Art Museum, New York, representing a spectacular range of materials, motifs, and techniques—from traditional early-American quilts to more contemporary sculptural assemblages. The quilts in Handstitched Worlds show us how this often overlooked medium balances creativity with tradition, and individuality with collective zeitgeist.

Maps and quilts are built upon established systems that use color, pattern, and symbols to create whole compositions from a network of interlocked parts. Both are infused with history and memory—they are living records of traditions, experiences, relationships, beliefs, and aspirations. Like a roadmap, the quilts in this unique exhibition offer a path to a deeper understanding of the American cultural fabric.

**EXHIBITION SPECIFICATIONS**

**Number of Works**
23 quilts

**Organized by**
The American Folk Art Museum, New York

**Requirements**
Moderate security; 175–200 linear feet

**Shipping**
IA&A makes all arrangements; exhibitors pay outgoing shipping costs within the contiguous US

**Booking Period**
12 weeks

**Tour**
September 2021–September 2024