

# FORT GANSEVOORT

## YVONNE WELLS

1939 Born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, United States

## EDUCATION

1964 BA, Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, AL

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *Yvonne Wells*, Frieze Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
- 2024 *Beyond Patchwork: The Abstractions of Yvonne Wells*, Fort Gansevoort, New York, NY  
*Picture This: The Story Quilts of Yvonne Wells*, Paul R. Jones Museum, Tuscaloosa, AL
- 2023-2024 *Spotlight Series, American South Consortium Exhibition: Yvonne Wells*, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery, AL; Columbia Museum of Art, Columbia, SC; Mobile Museum of Art, Mobile, AL; Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, CT (traveling exhibition)
- 2023 *Yvonne Wells: Play The Hand That's Dealt You*, Fort Gansevoort, New York, NY
- 2022 *Yvonne Wells*, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery, AL
- 2021 *Yvonne Wells: The Stories We Tell, In collaboration with Jessica Lynne*, Fort Gansevoort (online exhibition)
- 2013 *Piecing Together History: Civil Rights Quilts by Yvonne Wells*, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery, AL
- 2012 *Telling Stories: Quilted Art by Yvonne Wells*, Carnegie Visual Arts Center, Decatur, AL
- 2011-2012 *Yvonne Wells: Quilted Messages*, International Quilt Museum, University of Nebraska Lincoln, Lincoln, NE

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *Sew Their Names: Quilting, Creativity and Activism*, The Jule Museum at Auburn University, Auburn, AL
- 2024 *Patterns in Abstraction: Black Quilts from the High's Collection*, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA  
*Spin A Yarn*, Guild Hall, East Hampton, NY  
*One Stitch at a Time: Southern Vernacular Quilts*, LSU Museum of Art, Baton Rouge, LA  
*Voices Carry: Art by Alabama Women*, Birmingham Public Library, Birmingham, AL  
*WRONGED*, Galerie Marguo, Paris, France

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- 2023-2024 *Quilting a Future: Contemporary Quilts and American Tradition*, Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, OH
- 2023 *Strike Fast, Dance Lightly: Artists on Boxing*, FLAG Art Foundation, New York, NY  
*Feeling of light*, Almine Rech, Brussels, Belgium
- 2021 *Charlie Lucas and Yvonne Wells: What I Knew How to Do*, EBSCO Fine Art Gallery, The Shelby County Arts Council, Columbiana, AL; Wiregrass Museum of Art, Dothan, AL (traveling exhibition)  
*Good Trouble: Civil Rights Past & Present*, Kentuck Art Center, Northport, AL
- 2020 *Pieces and Patterns: Quilts of West Alabama*, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery, AL
- 2018 *The Original Makers: Folk Art from the Cargo Collection*, Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, AL
- 2017-2018 *From Heart To Hand: African-American Quilts from the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts*, Albany Museum of Art, Albany, GA
- 2015-2016 *African-American Quilts from the Cargo Collection*, International Quilt Museum, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE
- 2014 *Creator/Created*, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery, AL  
*From Heart to Hand: African-American Quilts from the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts*, DePaul Art Museum, Chicago, IL; Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, NJ (traveling exhibition)
- 2011 *Black History Month at GMA*, Gadsden Museum of Art, Gadsden, AL
- 2008 *Stitching History: The Story Quilts of Yvonne Wells*, Cloisters of Saint Augustine, Pietrasanta, Italy  
*Quilts and Human Rights*, Michigan State University Museum, MI
- 2000 *Alabama Art 2000*, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery, AL; N.A.L.L. Art Association, Vence, France; Museum of Tourettes sur Loup, Tourettes sur Loup, France (traveling exhibition)
- 1992 *Narrations: The Quilts of Yvonne Wells and Carolyn Mazloomi*, Louisville Visual Art Association, Louisville, KY
- 1991 *Quilts: The Patterns of History*, Castle Gallery at New Rochelle College, New Rochelle, NY
- 1989 *Stitching Memories: African American Story Quilts*, Williams College Museum of Art, Williamstown, MA
- 1987 *The Art of Black America*, Terada Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

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## AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FEWLLOWSHIPS

- 2024            The Joan Mitchell Foundation Fellowship
- 2019            Creative Director of Tuscaloosa 200 Bicentennial project & memory quilt  
Governor's Arts Award
- 1998            Alabama Arts and Visual Craftsmen Award
- 1993            Created an ornament for the White House Christmas Tree

## PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts, Little Rock, AR  
Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, AL  
The Bunker Artspace, West Palm Beach, FL  
Flint Institute of Arts, Flint, MI  
Henry Ford Museum, Dearborn, MI  
High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA  
International Quilt Museum, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE  
Kentuck Art Center, Northport, AL  
Mobile Museum of Art, Mobile, AL  
Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery, AL  
Nasher Museum of Art, Duke University, Durham, NC  
Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington D.C.  
Wiregrass Museum of Art, Dothan, AL  
Weisman Art Museum, Minneapolis, MN

## PUBLICATIONS

- 2024            Morgan, Stacy, and Yvonne Wells. *The Story Quilts of Yvonne Wells*. Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press, 2024.
- Lamar, Jay. *Old enough: Southern Women Artists and Writers on Creativity and Aging*. Athens, GA: NewSouth Books, 2024.
- 2019            Knight, Elliot A., ed. *Alabama Creates: 200 Years of Art and Artists*. Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press, 2019.
- Morgan, Stacy. "Yvonne Wells: Stitching Stories." *Alabama Arts*. vol. XXVIII, no. 1, 2019.
- 2018            *The Original Makers: Folk Art from the Cargo Collection*. Birmingham: Birmingham Museum of Art, 2018.
- 2013            Crown, Carol and Cheryl Rivers. *Folk Art, The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, v. 23. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2013.

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- 2011 Morgan, Stacy. "Anything I Can Stick a Needle In': An Interview with Yvonne Wells." *Journal of Comparative Poetics*. no. 31. Cairo: American University in Cairo. 2011.
- 2000 Hollis, Nall, ed. *Alabama Arts 2000*. Montgomery: Black Belt Press, 2000.
- Brown, Elizabeth Via. "International Exposure for Alabama's Visual Artists." *Alabama Arts*, vol. XVI, no. 1. Montgomery: Alabama State Council on the Arts, 2000.
- 1994 Kemp, Kathy. *Revelations: Alabama's Visionary Folk Artists*. Birmingham: Crane Hill Publishers, 1994.
- 1989 Grudin, Eva Ungar. *Stitching Memories: African-American Story Quilts*. Williamstown: Williams College Museum of Art, 1989.

## PRESS

- 2026 Mechling, Lauren. "At Frieze Los Angeles, Textiles Are No Longer on the Fringe." *Architectural Digest*. April 1.
- "An Exhilarating Week' – Frieze Los Angeles 2026 Sees Strong Sales and Fantastic Energy." *Frieze*. March 4.
- Mohr, Ian. "Ari Emanuel went on buying spree at his celebrity packed Frieze Los Angeles art fair." *Page Six*. February 27.
- Kazakina, Katya. "Frieze Owner Ari Emanuel Buys Three Quilts at Los Angeles Fair, Beating VIPs in the Door." *artnet*. February 27.
- d'Avignon, Angella. "'Better every year': Frieze opens to swift sales for Los Angeles artists." *The Art Newspaper*. February 27.
- Dúron, Maximiliano. "The Best Booths at Frieze LA, From a Textile Trunk Show to Poignant Commentaries on ICE Raids." *ARTnews*. February 26.
- 2025 Russel, Livia. "Work in Progress: Yvonne Wells." *Frieze*. December 16.
- Samples, Heather. "Touch and Go: Artists Yvonne Wells, Liam Lee, and Misha Japanwala talk bodies, homes, and how to get out of your own head." *Tidal Magazine*. Issue no. 20. Spring/Summer 2025.
- Gill, Jenny. "In the Studio: Yvonne Wells." *Joan Mitchell Foundation*. April 21.
- 2024 Saltz, Jerry. "The Best New York Art Shows of 2024 Outsiders, Renaissance masterpieces, crazy quilts, and more." *Vulture*. December 6.

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Cassady, Daniel. "13 Highlights from 'Artists for Kamala' Benefit Sale, Including Works by Jeff Koons, George Condo, and More" *ARTnews*. October 4.

White, Katie. "Yvonne Wells Started Quilting at 40. Now, at 85, the Art World Is Finally Taking Notice." *Artnet*. October 3.

Saltz, Jerry. "Yvonne Well's Patchwork Histories." *New York Magazine*. September 20.

Wally, Maxine. "At 85, Artist Yvonne Wells Is Having a Milestone Moment." *W Magazine*. September 19.

Martin-Gachot, Ella. "Yvonne Wells Doesn't Care If You Call Her Art 'Folk or Fine.' She Just Wants to Keep Creating." *Culture*, September 13.

Saltz, Jerry. "Fall Preview 2024: 10 Art Shows We Can't Wait to See This Fall." *New York Magazine*. August 27.

"Joan Mitchell Foundation Announces 2024 Fellowships." *Artforum*. August 14.

"Beyond Patchwork: The Abstraction of Yvonne Wells." *Art Plugged*. August 1.

Kinselle, Eileen. "A Sharp New Show Highlights The Many Ways Artists Have Woven Meaning Into Textiles." *Artnet News*. May 23.

Richardson, Maggie Heyn. "Quilts are Trendy. Experience Their Beauty and Significance at the LSU Museum of Art's New Exhibition, 'One Stitch at a Time'." *225 Magazine*. April 12.

2023 Zeigler, Jim. "Mobile Museum of Art exhibit, talk to memorialize Negro Baseball League." *1819 News*. November 29.

Columbia Museum of Art, "Columbia Museum of Art participates in the Art Bridges Cohort Program." *Columbia Star*. July 27.

Stern, Melissa. "Yvonne Wells at Fort Gansevoort Gallery." *Amsterdam News*. June 29.

Jacobs, Poppy. "Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts recognizes Alabama quiltmaker in spotlight series." *Alabama Public Radio*. April 6.

2022 Marshall, Brittany. "Tuscaloosa NAACP to host its first-ever Juneteenth weened celebration." *Tuscaloosa Thread*. June 13.

2019 Cobb, Mark Hughes. "Tuscaloosa quilter Yvonne Wells earns Governor's Arts Award." *Tuscaloosa News*. June 24.

Frazier, Terri Cowart. "Yvonne Wells' works with fabric are truly pieces of art." *The Vicksburg Post*. February 10.

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- 2014 Schwendener, Martha. "The Practical Art of Quilting." *The New York Times*. November 15.
- 2003 Lacey, Tiffany. "The Quilter: Yvonne Wells." *Tuscaloosa News*. December 2.