

*The Outsider Art Fair New York 2017*  
The Quilts of Gee's Bend



Rita Mae Pettway, 2015, roughly 87 x 84. © 2016 Rita Mae Pettway / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

The women of Gee's Bend, Alabama have created hundreds of quilt masterpieces dating from the early twentieth century to the present. The inhabitants of this small, rural community are mostly descendants of slaves, who for generations worked the fields belonging to the Pettway plantation. Using recycled work clothes and dresses, feed sacks, and fabric remnants, the women composed bold geometries that are a visual testament to the community quilting groups and the aesthetic lineages of local families. Few communities can boast the artistic achievements of Gee's Bend, the result of both geographical isolation and cultural continuity. The quilts have been exhibited in museum and cultural institutions across the United States including at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, the Indianapolis Museum of Art, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Whitney Museum of American Art, among others. A number of quilts were acquired by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 2014 thanks to a gift by the Souls Grown Deep Foundation, with an upcoming show in the summer of 2017.

A portion of the proceeds from any sales generated in this booth will go to God's Love We Deliver. God's Love We Deliver (God's Love) is the New York metropolitan area's leading provider of life-sustaining meals and nutrition counseling for people living with severe illnesses. Begun as an HIV/AIDS service organization, today God's Love provides for people living with more than 200 individual diagnoses. God's Love cooks and home delivers the specific, nutritious meals a client's severe illness and treatment so urgently requires. Meals are individually tailored for each client by one of our Registered Dietitian Nutritionists, and all clients have access to unlimited nutrition counseling. God's Love supports families by providing meals for the children and senior caregivers of its clients. All of the agency's services are provided free of charge, and in its history of 31 years, God's Love We Deliver has never had a waiting list. For more information, visit [godslovewedeliver.org](http://godslovewedeliver.org). God's Love is a non-sectarian organization.

**Wide Open Arts**

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