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## BMA PRESENTS EXTRAORDINARY ART QUILTS ON VIEW FOR THE FIRST TIME

*New Arrivals exhibition features works by leading textile artists with strong ties to Baltimore*

BALTIMORE, MD (December 3, 2015)—The Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) presents five striking late-20th century art quilts on view for the first time. On view December 16, 2015–June 19, 2016, *New Arrivals: Art Quilts* is one of nine exhibitions in a series celebrating the museum’s enormously successful Campaign for Art. The intricately designed, vibrant quilts were created for display on the wall, rather than a bed, by some of the nation’s most acclaimed textile artists, including Baltimore-native Adrien Rothschild, currently based in Pennsylvania, and the late Elizabeth Scott, who lived in Baltimore’s Sandtown-Winchester neighborhood.

Scott’s esoterically appliquéd and stitched *Plantation* (1980) gives an abstract depiction of both the night sky and the furrowed earth as remembered from her childhood in South Carolina. Rothschild—inspired by the paintings of her mother, Amalie Rothschild, and the work of M.C. Escher—created *Purple Mountains* (1991), an abstractly pictorial quilt of forested mountains, sky, and sun that synthesizes her love of color and geometric design.



The intimate exhibition features works by the foremost proponent of the art quilt, Michael James.

James trained as a painter and print maker but was inspired by an exhibition at the Whitney Museum of American art to change his medium. His stunning *Metamorphosis* (1983) quilt plays with color transitions and the transformation of space. Another painter turned quilt artist, Pamela Studstill, is represented by an elaborately pieced and painted quilt, *#76* (1988), which is accompanied by the original commission drawing and fabric swatches.

The most adventurous quilt is Gayle Fraas and Duncan Slade’s *Marsh Island* (1986). This work challenges the traditional definition of quilts by blending architectural and textile elements for a triptych composed of painted plywood panels surrounding dye-painted and quilted cloth insets.

The exhibition is curated by Curator of Textiles Anita Jones.

### NEW ARRIVALS SERIES

The BMA’s enormously successful Campaign for Art has secured more than 3,500 objects during the past decade in honor of the museum’s 100th anniversary in 2014. These gifts have joined the museum’s renowned collection—now 95,000 objects—most of which came from generous donors in this community like Claribel and Etta Cone, Jacob Epstein, and Saidie A. May. To celebrate these new gifts and their donors, the BMA is

presenting a series of New Arrivals exhibitions and installations in nearly every area of the museum from September 2015 through May 2016.

### **THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART**

The Baltimore Museum of Art is home to an internationally renowned collection of 19th-century, modern, and contemporary art. Founded in 1914 with a single painting, the BMA today has 95,000 works of art—including the largest holding of works by Henri Matisse in the world. Throughout the museum, visitors will find an outstanding selection of American and European painting, sculpture, and decorative arts; prints and drawings from the 15th century to the present; works by established and emerging contemporary artists; and exceptional objects from Africa and Asia. Two beautifully landscaped gardens display an array of 20th-century sculpture that is an oasis in the city. The 210,000-square-foot museum is distinguished by a grand historic building designed in the 1920s by renowned American architect John Russell Pope. A \$28 million multi-year renovation that began in 2010 has transformed galleries for contemporary, American, African, and Asian art, added a new education center, and improved visitor amenities and infrastructure. Since 2006, the BMA has provided free general admission so that everyone can enjoy the power of art.

### **VISITOR INFORMATION**

The Baltimore Museum of Art is open Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. The museum is closed Monday, Tuesday, New Year's Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The BMA is located at 10 Art Museum Drive at North Charles and 31st Streets, three miles north of Baltimore's Inner Harbor. For general Museum information, call 443-573-1700 or visit [artbma.org](http://artbma.org).

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**Image:** Adrien Rothschild. Detail, *Purple Mountains*. 1991. The Baltimore Museum of Art: Gift of the Artist, Baltimore, BMA 1998.360