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Fiber Artist Valerie Goodwin To Make Pittsburgh Debut at SCC Satellite Gallery
Exhibition of architecturally inspired quilts explores history and sense of place

PITTSBURGH, PA – April 20, 2016 – At first glance, Tallahassee-based artist Valerie Goodwin's quilts are stunning for the intricacy of their lines which create complex shapes and designs. Closer inspection slowly reveals these patterns are city blocks and urban landscapes captured from an aerial perspective. Drawing inspiration from architectural maps, plans, and blueprints, Goodwin's combined love for architecture and art is evident through the detail and care in her works.

While her quilts have been showcased in several shows throughout Pennsylvania, Goodwin will make her Pittsburgh debut this spring in *Pattern and Place: Art Quilts by Valerie Goodwin*, a solo-exhibition at the Society for Contemporary Craft's BNY Mellon Center Satellite Gallery. On view May 6, 2016 - July 4, 2016, Goodwin's vibrant quilts, depicting both realistic and abstract imagery of maps, will be featured.

Goodwin's personal connection to community and history is evident in the works showcased in *Pattern and Place*. *African Burial Ground II*, comprised of a seamless blend of muted colors, depicts New York City's African Burial Ground National Monument, masterfully crafted using the artist's signature technique of multi-layering fabric. Simultaneously portraying a Dutch settlement in 1775 along the left, contemporary lower Manhattan on the right, and an imaginary scene of the burial site along the bottom, Goodwin manages to convey the area's complex history while allowing room for her own artistic interpretation. This creative approach to evocative subject matter is also evident in *Economic Landscape*, a quilt Goodwin crafted in response to the national economic crisis in 2008 in which she conveys her understanding of the event and how she felt it was represented in surrounding landscapes.

Other featured works, including *Once Upon a Hillside* and *Town and Country*, showcase Goodwin's architectural expertise. After receiving her undergraduate degree from Yale University, the artist pursued a Master's degree in architectural design at Washington University in St. Louis, MO. She is currently a professor of architectural design at Florida A&M University's School of Architecture where she received a "Teacher of the Year" award in 2003. Goodwin's experience teaching basic architectural design principles eventually led to her fascination with quilting, an art form that shares a similar foundation of rhythm, color, and pattern.

The artist's attraction to maps began as a child, when she spent hours appreciating their beauty. Drawing inspiration from both the ordered principles of architecture and the spontaneity of Abstract Expressionism, Goodwin initially struggled to incorporate the disparate muses, saying: "I had to come to grips with the fact that the media—fabric and thread—would not produce the crisp, clean rectilinear style that I was comfortable with in the field of architecture. My work became more improvisational and spontaneous—in my opinion, giving my work a whole new life."

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Pattern and Place was conceived of in collaboration with the Hill House Association and inspired by the Hill District's Greenprint Plan. Goodwin's artistic exploration of community, history, and place provides a creative point of contemplation about neighborhood identity.

Goodwin's exhibition also serves as companion exhibition to the *Fiberart International 2016*, which is on view May 6 - August 21, 2016 at the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts and SCC's Strip District Gallery. Produced by the Fiberarts Guild of Pittsburgh, the *Fiberart International* showcases innovative work by over 80 established and emerging artists.

About Contemporary Craft:

Presenting contemporary art in craft media by regional, national, and international artists since 1971, the Society for Contemporary Craft (SCC) offers cutting edge exhibitions focusing on multicultural diversity and non-mainstream art, as well as a range of studio workshops, community outreach programs, and a retail store. Through its mission of engaging the public in creative experiences through contemporary craft, SCC offers meaningful art opportunities for more than 145,000 people a year through four core values: providing vital support for artists; filling critical gaps in public education; sharing cross cultural perspectives; and using art to build community. SCC is located at 2100 Smallman Street in the Strip District of Pittsburgh, PA. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. The satellite gallery is located in the "T" station lobby of BNY Mellon Center in downtown Pittsburgh, and is open daily from 6:00 am through midnight. Exhibitions and informal, hands-on art activities in the Drop-In Studio are always free to the public. For more information, visit www.contemporarycraft.org or call 412.261.7003.

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ABOVE: *African Burial Ground II*, 2009
32" x 44"

RIGHT: *Once Upon A Hillside*, 2013
36" x 48"

BELOW: *Economic Landscape*, 2009
32" x 54"

