



301 South Main Street, Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801

(540) 433-3818 ❖ [www.vaquiltmuseum.org](http://www.vaquiltmuseum.org)

Designated the “official quilt museum of the Commonwealth” by the General Assembly

### Historic and Contemporary Fiber Art Open Season at the Virginia Quilt Museum

The Virginia Quilt Museum will open the new exhibit season on February 1, 2012, with “Shenandoah Valley Counterpanes” and “Art Under A Microscope.” These new exhibits will be open until May 12. In addition, rare Civil War quilts made in the Valley, twentieth century quilts and sewing machines from the Museum’s collection will be featured in additional galleries.

Counterpanes are a type of bedcover, often white-work or white fabric with elaborate white quilting or stitching on it. Guest curators, Beverley and Jeff Evans will show white-work bedcovers produced in the Shenandoah Valley during the 1800s. These textiles are from private and institutional collections. Most have not been publically displayed.

The historic counterpanes will be the subject of the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Art’s biennial Textile Seminar to be held in Harrisonburg March 14-17. This is the first time the Winston-Salem, North Carolina, museum has held their Textile Seminar outside their own museum. Speakers and students at the seminar will study the exhibit at the Virginia Quilt Museum.

In contrast, “Art Under A Microscope” is inspired by the beauty of scientific photographs taken through microscopes. This unique collection of twenty art quilts, created by the group Fiber Artists @ Loose Ends, will be exhibited for the first time outside a medical facility. Colorful and dramatic, these quilts show us the beauty of nature within the human body.

“Shenandoah Valley Counterpanes” and “Art Under A Microscope” can be seen at the Virginia Quilt Museum from February 1 through May 12. The Museum is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10am to 4pm at 301 South Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA. Parking in the municipal lot behind the museum is free. Phone 540-433-3818 for more information and for groups.

