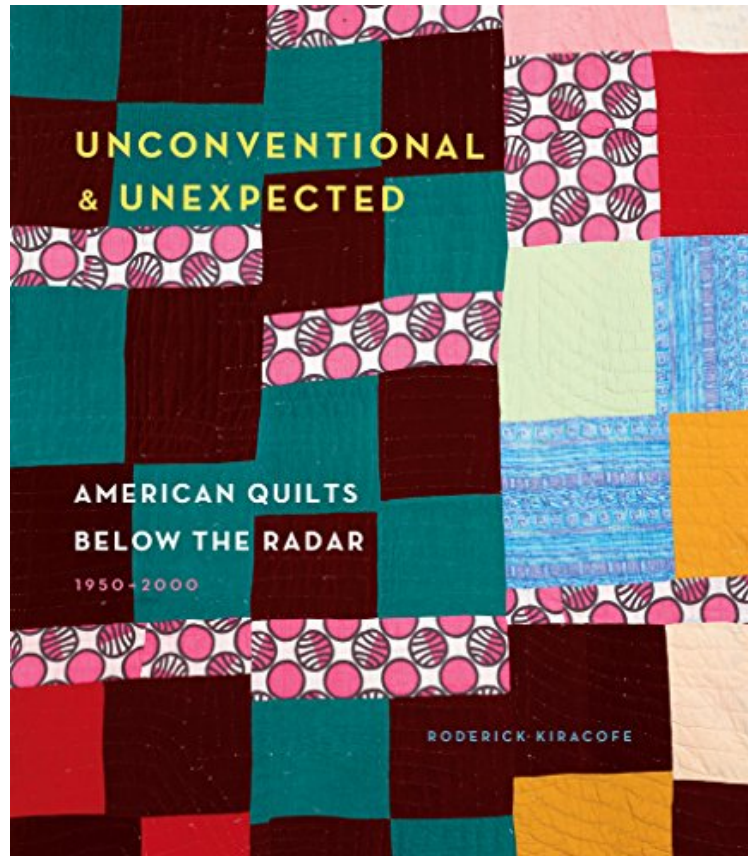


Unconventional Unexpected: American Quilts Below the Radar 1950-2000

Roderick Kiracofe

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Roderick Kiracofe : Unconventional Unexpected: American Quilts Below the Radar 1950-2000 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Unconventional Unexpected: American Quilts Below the Radar 1950-2000:

28 of 28 people found the following review helpful. InspiringBy Timothy LatimerAs contemporary quilters we tend to place high value on precision piecing, perfect applique stitches, square and perfect binding and intricate quilting. We feel the need to follow all the rules and strive for our idea of perfection. This book features quilts with a much different perspective. Quilts are, at their core, utilitarian objects made with warmth as their main goal. Here we see how quilters from 1950 2000 put their own stamp on the humble quilt. No precise patterns and rotary cutters and templates here, these quilters fearlessly improvised. They took what materials they had and made wonderfully unique and individual quilts. They were made to be used, often with scraps, but their construction is anything but haphazard. The improvisational style will appeal to and inspire modern quilters and expand our view of what a traditional quilt looks like. I read the book cover to cover last night and I have dozens of ideas in my head for new quilts inspired by the

quilts in this book. There is something for everyone in this book, quilt historians, quilt collectors, modern quilters, traditional quilters and artists. This book might change the way you think about quilts. 16 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Artistic, joyful, visually and emotionally awakening. By Sujata Shah Beautifully designed and written from cover to cover, *Unconventional and Unexpected: American Quilts Below the Radar 1950-2000* is a piece of art in and of itself. The collection of quilts in the book look like modern paintings and poetry created through stitches. Each quilt is made for personal use with most humble materials; it makes you wonder about the personal story of its maker. Like any other form of modern art, it allows you to make your own interpretation through the fabrics they used or the pattern they followed. It's only been a few days since I got my copy. At first, I wanted to read the entire book but as soon as I read the first few pages, I went through it with some mad rush to see all the quilts at once. Glancing through the pages, I was happily interrupted and drawn in by words from the essays written by textile artists, authors and museum curators. Seeing quilts like the ones in this book is changing the way I think as an artist. As a graphic and quilt designer, I find it visually and emotionally awakening. With riots of colors and compositions, prints and patterns, this book will be an inspiration for not only generations of quilters but also artists working with many mediums. 22 of 24 people found the following review helpful. "We shared a love for quirky, barely-vintage quilts." By Bill Volckening A few years ago, Roderick Kiracofe and I met through Facebook. There was a page for sharing pictures of old quilts. We were both members, and I was posting a lot of pictures of the quilts of the 1970s. Roderick took an immediate interest in the quilts, and when he was passing through Portland in 2012 he visited my home. We shared a love for quirky, barely-vintage quilts, and I was delighted to learn he was writing a book - "*Unconventional Unexpected: American Quilts Below the Radar 1950-2000*". Before the book was released, Roderick sent me an e-mail to tell me there would be a big surprise for me in the book, but he wouldn't say what it was. I just received a copy, and not only is one of my quilts included as a full-page illustration, the quilt was mentioned in the essay "In Dialogue with an Anonymous Quilt" by Amelia Peck, curator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. An excellent surprise, and I am honored-- but even without this personal connection to the book I would unconditionally recommend it for anyone who loves quilts and art. The book will surely be one of the seminal quilt history books of the 21st century, a successful follow-up to "*The American Quilt: A History of Cloth Comfort 1750-1950*". It is brilliant, full of vibrant, offbeat quilts, and excellent essays by noteworthy experts in the field of quilts and textiles. Worth reading cover to cover. This book ushers in a new era of collecting, a new breed of collector and a whole new genre of quilts. Perfectly timed, considering how much the new generation of quiltmakers in the Modern Quilting movement appreciate improvisational style. Thank you, Roderick, for generously sharing your quilts and your knowledge, for including quilts from other collections, and for giving us the gift of another amazing, memorable book of quilts.

Unconventional Unexpected: American Quilts Below the Radar 1950-2000 is a stunning collection of approximately 150 eccentric and extraordinary quilts made predominantly by anonymous quilters in the US during the second half of the 20th century. Collected by renowned quilt authority and collector Roderick Kiracofe, they represent a 20th-century quilt movement that remains mostly undocumented. Unlike the familiar quilts that replicate traditional patterns of earlier centuries, these surprising textiles represent a freer, more casual, utilitarian style that departs from (and returns to) a multitude of norms and standards. Peppered with essays by renowned experts that help to contextualize the quilts surprisingly modern aesthetic, *Unconventional Unexpected* is a groundbreaking celebration of 20th-century quilting that picks up where most other quilt histories leave off.

"This year's picturesque coffee table tome for quilters and collectors." - Associated Press