

ELEVATING COMMUNITIES

Whitework: Women Stitching Identities

Disregarded for years as fancy work made for a future home, recent research has shown that whitework textiles are elaborate both in make and meaning. In make, the textiles are often an elaborate arrangement of intricately stitched motifs expressed in large scale. In meaning, the women who chose to make these white textiles, whatever techniques they used, committed countless hours to their creation as a medium for self-expression. Additionally, historical context reveals that these textiles were primary vehicles through which women silently supported the political and economic development of the United States in the years following the Revolution through the early decades of the 19th century.



Primarily featuring textiles from the Kentucky Museum and Kentucky Historical Society, *Whitework: Women Stitching Identity* will explore the significance of early white embellished bedcovers that have been largely ignored, undervalued, and misinterpreted. It will also document the whitework textiles of Kentucky women and connect these works to broader narratives of American women’s lives and self-expression of identity during the formative years of the new United States.

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