

Interview Quadrant Questions

1. Discussion of the Informant's Quilt

- Tell me about the quilt you brought in today.
- What special meaning does this quilt have for you?
- Why did you choose this quilt to bring to the interview?
- What do you think someone viewing your quilt might conclude about you?
- How do you use this quilt?
- What are your plans for this quilt?

2. Informant's Involvement in Quiltmaking

- Tell me about your interest in quiltmaking.
- At what age did you start quiltmaking?
- From whom did you learn to quilt?
- How many hours a week do you quilt?
- What is your first quilt memory?
- Are there other quiltmakers among your family or friends? Please tell me about them.
- How does quiltmaking impact your family?
- Tell me if you have ever used quilts to get through a difficult time?
- Tell me about an amusing experience that has occurred from your quiltmaking (teaching)?
- What do you find pleasing about quiltmaking?
- What aspects of quiltmaking do you not enjoy?
- What art or quilt groups do you belong to?
- Have advances in technology influenced your work? If so, how?
- What are your favorite techniques and materials?
- Describe your studio/the place that you create.
- Tell me how you balance your time.
- Do you use a design wall? If so, in what way/how does that enhance your creative process? If not, how do you go about designing your quilts?

3. The Aesthetics, Craftsmanship, and Design Aspects of Quiltmaking

- What do you think makes a great quilt?
- What makes a quilt artistically powerful?
- What makes a quilt appropriate for a museum or special collection?
- What makes a great quiltmaker?
- Whose works are you drawn to and why?
- Which artists have influenced you?
- How do you feel about machine quilting vs. hand quilting? What about long-arm quilting?

4. The Function and Meaning of Quilts in American Life.

- Why is quiltmaking important to your life?
- In what ways do your quilts reflect your community or region?
- What do you think about the importance of quilts in American life?
- In what ways do you think quilts have special meaning for women's history in America?
- How do you think quilts can be used?
- How do you think quilts can be preserved for the future?
- What has happened to the quilts that you have made or those of friends and family?
- What do you think is the biggest challenge confronting quiltmakers today?