



Workclothes Quilt by Mary Lee Bendolph



Mary Lee Bendolph
1935-

Mary Lee Bendolph is a Gee's bend artist who creates quilts. She learned to quilt from her mother at the age of twelve. Mary has a daughter she then taught to quilt. Quilting is part of the tradition of this rural Alabama community.

Mary used common textiles like denim and corduroy in her quilts. It was what the quilters had on hand but at times it also served a purpose. A widow would make a quilt from her husband's clothes to wrap around herself when she missed him.

Questions:

- Do you see what recycled fabrics were used in this piece?
- What qualities do these recycled materials bring to the piece?
- Why might artists recycle materials?
- What activities do you do with your family, friends and communities?