

# Cut from the Same Cloth

## **American Quilts at Mia**

Quilts from the 1800s and early 1900s may conjure up images of thrifty women stitching scraps of cloth together after a long day of chores. And there is some truth to this. But most quilters were motivated by a desire to make something beautiful—for their home, their relatives, or their friends. Rather than resorting to cast-off clothing or discarded household textiles, they often purchased fabrics that suited the quilt's design specifications.

This selection of American-made quilts from Mia's collection includes quilts never before exhibited. Many of the patterns are well-known designs that were popularized in magazines as early as the 1840s. A few of the designs are unique, made without recourse to communal patterns. The display as a whole reveals the variations in quilting practices that resulted from the regional, cultural, and religious differences of a large and diverse population. And it shows quilting as an art form central to life in the United States during the 1800s and 1900s.