

INSPIRED BY THE NATIONAL PARKS

In early 2014, a challenge was issued to select a park and a subject and to make an original quilt to honor the National Parks. The enthusiastic responses came from artists near and far, and when all was said and done, the resulting collection of 177 quilts is remarkable!

Each of the 59 National Parks is portrayed by three quilts highlighting the flora, fauna and landscape from Acadia in Maine to American Samoa, and many locations in-between. Discover a wide range of depictions and interpretations from a broad variety of fiber artists. All who participated share a passion for America's Best Idea: the National Parks. Many of these quilts were first shown at the Houston International Quilt Festival in the fall of 2015, and the entire collection premiered at the Road to California in January 2016. The exhibit will travel to numerous venues for the next two years.

We hope you enjoy looking at these quilts; maybe they will remind you of special places you've been to, or of places you would still like to visit. Please do what you can to become involved in the stewardship of these special treasures: as the song goes, "this land is your land, this land is my land."

This challenge was organized and curated by Donna Marcinkowski DeSoto of Fairfax, Virginia. She is also the author of the book on this project, published by Schiffer Publishing in 2016: *Inspired by the National Parks: Their Landscapes and Wildlife in Fabric Perspectives*. The book contains color images of all 177 quilts, accompanied by narratives from National Park Rangers and personnel from all 59 Parks. A percentage of sales from this book will be donated to the National Park Service. For more information on this project, upcoming exhibit venues, or for contact information, visit

www.npscentennialquilts.com

