

## A POOL OF TALENT IN HARD TIMES

Galleries pool water-themed exhibitions; trade awaits Brexit red tape; Hong Kong overtakes London at auction; quiltmakers sell to major museums

Melanie Gerlis, *Financial Times*, 7 January 2021



'Lazy Gal Variation' (2003) quilt by Annie Mae Young, acquired by the Tate © Stephen Pitkin/Pitkin Studio/Art Resource, NY

Tate and the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art are among the institutions that have bought works from an exhibition of the so-called “Gee’s Bend quiltmakers”, mounted in London’s Alison Jacques Gallery. The works, in their first dedicated show ever in Europe, were made by three generations of African American women from the remote Alabama River community of Gee’s Bend. “These quilts have got something to say, they are steeped in a rich history of fighting for the rights of a community,” Jacques says.

Tate has acquired three pieces from 1950 to 2003 and made by Aolar Carson Mosely (1912-99), her daughter Mary Lee Bendolph (b1935) and Annie Mae Young (b1928). LA Moca has bought a two-sided quilt from 1973 by Essie Bendolph Pettway (b1956), Mary Lee Bendolph’s daughter.

The exhibition of works by 12 artists, priced between \$25,000 and \$50,000, was organised in partnership with the non-profit Souls Grown Deep Foundation. It was only open for a few weeks in December, until London’s lockdowns struck, but Jacques says she hopes to extend the show. In the meantime, two of the artists participate in a virtual talk on January 19 and the works are on view at [alisonjacquesgallery.com](http://alisonjacquesgallery.com).