

CURATOR BIOGRAPHY

Born and raised in Hong Kong, Victoria Hoffman came upon antique quilts through her love of antiques and history. She began studying American quilts in 1980.

Over several years Hoffman did course work at the Museum of American Folk Art, the Cooper Hewitt Museum, and the Cooperstown, New York Textile School, with self-directed study at textile libraries in New York City: the Metropolitan Museum of Art; the Cooper Hewitt Museum; The Fashion Institute of Technology Textile Collection and the Brooklyn Museum of Art.

In the early 1980s she began giving lectures at local quilt guilds and selling quilts at area antique shows. Before long her interest in and familiarity with the Far East drew her to the emerging quilt world in Japan. In 1987 Hoffman decided to organize a lecture at the College Women of Japan Society, along with a sale at the Torindo Gallery, both in Tokyo, Japan. This effort attracted the premier quilt school in Japan, the Hearts and Hands Patchwork School, and Hoffman was invited to lecture and sell antique quilts at their annual Quilt Festival. As a result, Hoffman became deeply involved in Japan's quilt world.

In 1989 the President of Hearts and Hands School asked Hoffman to curate an exhibition for their 1990 – 1991 series of three Quilt Festivals in Japan. In response Hoffman created the Japanese version of *Quilts: A Window to the Past*, along with a full-color, 38-page Japanese language catalog.

On its return to the United States Hoffman reformulated and expanded the exhibition and the catalog to appeal to a wider audience in the United States. It traveled to four American Museums and also went back to Tokyo. (See Exhibition History)

Hoffman was Project Director for several traveling exhibitions organized by Hearts and Hands School for the Tokyu and Mitsukoshi Department Stores. She was the consulting curator and American coordinator for Hearts and Hands' special exhibitions, a part of their annual Quilt Festivals. Quilts were borrowed from such institutions as the Indiana State Museum, the Philadelphia Museum and the Oregon Historical Society, from private collectors such as Robert and Ardis James, and Albert and Merry Silber, and from quilt dealers such as Shelly Zegart, the Robert Cargo Folk Art Gallery, and Kelter-Malce, among many others. (See Curators History)

For more than twenty years Hoffman has been a well recognized and respected authority on antique American quilts, both in the USA and Japan.

Hoffman graduated with a B.A. in Psychology from Wesleyan University in Connecticut, and an M.A. in Social Work from Hunter College School of Social Work in New York City.



1988 – 2000

Annual Exhibitor at *Hearts and Hands Quilt Festival* in Tokyo and often in Osaka.

1995 – 2002

Exhibitor at the *Houston International Quilt Festival*, Houston, Texas, drawing approximately 50,000 visitors a year.

1991 – 1994

Consulting curator and U.S. coordinator for Hearts and Hands special exhibitions:

1991: *Antique Amish Quilts*

1992: *Story Quilts*

1993: *Lovely Quilts: A Celebration of the Heart Motif in American Folk Art*

1994: *Think of You: Signature Quilts*

1996 – 1997

Authored 12-part series of articles on Antique American textiles for the premiere Japanese quilt magazine, *Quilts, Japan*.

1997

Project Director for Hearts and Hands School, the organizer for the Tokyu Department Store's traveling exhibitions:

The Museum of American Folk Art's 50- Quilt *Glorious American Quilts*.

The Museum of American Folk Art Director Robert Bishop's collection
The Romance of the Double Wedding Ring Quilt.

1998

Exhibited at the *World Quilt Festival '98* in Tokyo, Japan. This one-time event organized by the Japan Handicraft Instructors Association and *Asahi Shimbun* newspaper, drew a record 175,000 visitors.

1999

Project Director for Hearts and Hands School, the organizer for the Mitsukoshi Department Store's traveling exhibition:

The Daughters of the American Revolution Museum's 50-quilt exhibition *Quilts from the DAR Museum*. This was the first overseas exhibition for the DAR, and their first large quilt loan anywhere in the world.

2002 – 2005

Annual exhibitor at the *Tokyo Great International Quilt Festival*, organized by NHK (Japanese Public Television), drawing over 246,000 visitors each year.
