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Racine Art Museum Celebrates New Gifts Showcasing Colorful Quilts by Husband and Wife Team

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Inspired by events and observations from their personal lives, the wife and husband team of Susan Shie and James Acord craft lively quilts that combine text, fabric, thread, paint, and found objects. Open June 18 – September 24, 2017, **Shie and Acord: Recent Acquisitions** celebrates a recent gift to RAM's collection of both small and large-scale works that demonstrate their collaborative working process.

While both artists contribute to their shared pieces in various ways, each does have specific interests and skills that inform their process. Shie—a sewer and painter—thinks about the quilts as diary “pages.” She applies text with a marker or airbrush, and then, hand stitches the printed elements while Acord machine stitches cursive text. Shie also adds paint, hand embroidery, and beadwork as well as sewn and shaped figures. Acord—a maker of custom leather goods—focuses on further hand embellishment and the addition of other crafted narrative elements, such as tooled leather cockroaches and animals. Found objects pulled from every day circumstances—such as an old silk bedspread, eating utensils, and seashells— are attached to the surfaces.

Full of dynamic imagery, color, and pattern, Shie and Acord's quilts offer opportunities for study and engagement with layers of details. While their works explore personal narratives, the subject matter also reflects their shared compassion for humanity and the environment. In fact, in 1989, Shie founded a project called Green Quilts, which asked “artists to dedicate their quilts to spiritual healing of the environment.” Shie and Acord have made several quilts that address these concerns, three of which are now part of RAM's collection.

This exhibition is made possible by: Platinum Sponsors - Karen Johnson Boyd and William B.

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Together, the two campuses of the Racine Art Museum, RAM in downtown Racine at 441 Main Street and the Charles A. Wustum Museum of Fine Arts at 2519 Northwestern Avenue, seek to elevate the stature of contemporary crafts to that of fine art by exhibiting significant works in craft media with painting, sculpture and photography, while providing outstanding educational art programming.

Docent led contemporary craft and architectural tours of the museums are available. Both campuses of the Racine Art Museum, are open Tuesday – Saturday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, and are closed Mondays, Federal holidays and Easter. RAM is open Sunday Noon – 5:00 pm, while Wustum is closed Sundays. An admission fee of \$5 for adults, with reduced fees for students and seniors, applies at RAM. Admission to Wustum is free. Members are always admitted without charge to either campus.