Sarah Bond: A Legacy of Quilt Making with Sarah Bond

Chapter 1 - Sarah Bond: A Legacy of Quilt Making
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- I love a lot... I love a lot of action. I like pattern and repetition and I like the way colors come together and I like to see a lot of it. (gentle light music) My name is Sarah Bond. I've been making quilts for about 40 years and I love what I do. After I started quilting, I found out that I have a lot of quilters in my family. I came across this book called "Stitched from the Soul" which is a book about slave quilt makers. So I'm flipping through this book and I come across Jane Arthur Bond. Jane Arthur Bond, an enslaved woman was my great-great-grandmother. It was wild. So I came across Jane in a book and I also came across Ruth. She was married to one of Jane's grandsons. Ruth was a social justice warrior back in the day. She was an artist, so she designed a few quilts and they're quite beautiful. They're very recognizable. I also found out that my father's maternal grandmother was a quilt maker. Her name was Louvinia, and she was born an enslaved person. Many of the quilts that I saw growing up on the beds were made by Louvinia. And so there's a part of me that feels as though I was maybe channeling somebody or maybe being prompted to embrace this particular art form. I am very inspired by the work of my foremothers, particularly the work of Louvinia. We hear a story that American quilt making was driven a lot by a need for warmth and by using scraps. And that is definitely true, but she clearly made some of these quilts for her own pleasure and also to be things of beauty. That's something that we do now. You know, we make quilts because they answer a need to create. Whenever I feel a little whiny about being tired or working so hard, all I have to do is think about these women. What they created and the circumstances in which they created these amazing quilts, and I'm inspired to persevere. I am very lucky because I have a lot of information about my family and about what they did from the stories that people tell and from the memories that people have. And if you think of a quilt telling a story, I'm not done talking until I get a lot of quilt in there. (gentle light music)

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