Intimate Parallels: The Art, History, and Activism of Civil War-Era Women’s Quilt Art


Abstract
The Civil War era was the most chronicled and transformational period in United States history. Narrated in art and text by mainstream publications, information regarding the era was readily available to most Americans. Distant from the white male dominated mainstream forms of art and journalism, a less renowned art form also chronicled the Civil War era. Denied the vote, and social and political equality, many Civil War-era women expressed their sentiments through the symbolic messaging of quilt art.

This study inquires into Civil War-era quilt art’s ability to exhibit historical events and its proclivity to symbolize and message the disparity between men’s and women’s social and political environments. It asserts that quilt art of the Civil War era reflects the general historical events of the era and creates a material record of women’s social and political sentiments. Furthermore, this thesis contends that an intimate parallelism exists between quilt art, the historical events, and the lived social and political experiences of Civil War-era women.

The direct observation and interpretation of primary source quilt art and relevant primary and secondary source documents evidence quilt art’s intimate parallelism with history and women’s liminal status. Today, Civil War-era quilt art represents some of our nation’s most cherished artifacts. As social and material culture history, quilt art provides an insightful and endearing connection to those artists, historians, and activists who endured the challenges and transformations of the Civil War era.

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Women during the Victorian Era live in another world. As seen in the movie, the place of women in society was different from our time. Women’s lives were different from each other so it is impossible to put all women as one body. During that time, there were the high or elite class, the middle class, and the lower class. For the high and middle class, women were carefully raised, well educated and treated like a possession of the family. The life of a high or middle class woman in the Victorian Era can be described as a possession or a treasure of the family. Women were mainly for love interest and they were purity. Women were respected so they could not be used for pleasurable sex and physical exertion. The Civil War was an incredibly important moment in America’s history. Almost every person living in the United States knew someone fighting or who had passed away during the war. The style of Civil War era clothing is one of the most quintessential looks of the entire Victorian period because it happened right in the middle of the era and because it embodied many of the fashions seen throughout the area. Civil War dresses were characterized by hoop skirts. In fact, Civil War ball gowns had some of the widest hoop skirts of the era, and the skirt itself could take up more than five yards ... Browse our collection of Civil War dresses below to find the one that is perfect for you. We sell separates like skirts and jackets as well as full Civil War ball gowns.