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## Rose Kretsinger (1886-1963): Renowned Quilt Artist of Emporia

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## Rose Kretsinger (1886-1963): Renowned Quilt Artist of Emporia

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CALENDULA QUILT  
1930-1932



ORCHID WREATH QUILT  
1928



PARADISE GARDEN QUILT  
1946



NEW ROSE TREE QUILT  
1929

Botanical images have been among the most popular in United States quilts. Rather than drawing directly from their gardens, most quiltmakers drew from centuries of folk art traditions. The abstractions we see as fruits and flowers can be traced to many cultures on many continents, including Greek mythology, the Judeo-Christian Bible, and Islamic, Indian, and Persian traditions.

Rose Francis Good Kretsinger was a professional designer with a degree from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago where she took classes from Alphonse Mucha and other leaders in the Arts and Crafts movement. She began making quilts inspired by antiques during the 1920s.

Rose Kretsinger is considered one of the twentieth century's master quiltmakers. After she took up quilting in the 1920s she traveled to Lawrence to study the old quilts at the University's Art Museum, believing new commercial trends produced quilts she called "tiresome." Because the quilts there inspired Rose, her daughter donated the Kretsinger collection of fifteen quilts to the museum.

The [Spencer Museum] collection has increased over the years, with gifts from generous donors of a single quilt or a small group of three or four. The quilts are kept in climate-controlled storage, with most rolled around acid-free cardboard cylinders and covered with dust protectors of cotton sheeting to protect them for future generations.

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