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## Second Annual Quilting Project

Professor Marta Effinger-Crichlow of the African American Studies Department is displaying the Second Annual Quilting Project in the Library interior exhibit cases. Throughout Black History Month (February 2008) and Women's History Month (March 2008) the Library will display quilts created by students in Professor Effinger-Crichlow's Black Women in Literature (AFR 2250) course. The course includes an exploration of the different ways in which black women tell their stories. During the Spring 2007 semester, Professor Effinger-Crichlow asked her students to select a woman of African descent with roots in America, the Caribbean, Canada and/or Africa. Each student designed questions and interviewed a family member, mentor, neighbor, friend, co-worker, or public figure about a particular aspect of her life. Following the interview(s), each student created a quilt based on the woman's story. In preparation for this quilting project, students examined Alice Walker's short story Everyday Use as well as the PBS documentary The Quiltmakers of Gee's Bend. The students learned that the women in the short story and documentary used the materials readily available to them to keep warm and to tell their stories. Students used a wide array of materials including fabric, paper, plastic, cardboard, buttons, glitter, and paint. The quilts on display represent the diverse narratives of women living inside and outside of New York City.



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