

# CLOSER LOOK

Use this guide to learn more about quilts, materials, and techniques.

## **MATERIALS: WHAT IS IT MADE OF?**

***Batting:*** A soft layer of loosely compacted fibers that provides the insulation in a quilt.

***Calimanco:*** A high-quality worsted fabric with a satin weave that is made glossy through the process of calendaring. Virtually all glazed worsteds, including calimanco, were produced in England.

***Calico:*** Cotton fabric printed with a repeating design, generally small scale, in one or more colors.

***Chintz:*** A glazed cotton fabric, often printed with large-scale designs intended for furnishing textiles.

***Crewel:*** Worsted embroidery yarn.

***Shalloon:*** A medium-quality, twill-woven worsted fabric that is made glossy by the process of calendaring.

***Tammy:*** A plain-woven worsted fabric that is made glossy through the process of calendaring. The lowest grade of calendared worsted, it was often used as a lining material.

## PROCESS: HOW IS IT MADE?



**Appliqué:** The application of one fabric on top of another.

**Calendaring:** The process of applying heat and pressure from metal plates, along with an application of starch, to make a fabric shiny. Calendared worsteds were a specialty of the British textile industry. Only one factory in the Philadelphia area is currently known to have offered calendaring in colonial America.

**Chain-stitching:** A sewing and embroidery technique in which a series of looped stitches form a chain-like pattern.



**Piecing:** Stitching fabrics together in a manner that forms a seam.



**Stuffed Work:** A method of adding extra stuffing within a quilted design to create a raised motif.



**Template piecing:** A patchwork technique in which fabric pieces are basted over a paper template. The pieces are then butted together and stitched, forming a mosaic pattern, generally of just one shape.

## PRODUCT: WHAT KINDS OF QUILTS?

**Comforter:** The same three layers that make up a quilt, but tied together with a series of knots, rather than stitched together.



**Crazy quilt:** A decorative textile constructed with randomly sized and shaped fabric pieces, laid onto a fabric foundation and attached by covering the edges with embroidery stitches, rather than seaming. Crazy quilts are not actually quilted and seldom have a batting; rather, the top and back layers are tied together, if attached at all. Crazy quilts are most commonly made of luxury silk fabrics like satin, brocade, and velvet.

**Petticoat:** A separate skirt worn under a dress for decoration, warmth, and/or shaping.

**Summer quilt:** A pieced or appliquéd decorative bed cover that has no batting or backing.

**Whitework:** An umbrella term for various forms of needlework that is all white. For example, in this exhibit, whole cloth quilts made of white cotton fabric, often with extra stuffing added to elements of the design.

**Whole cloth:** A quilt that has a top made of one fabric alone.