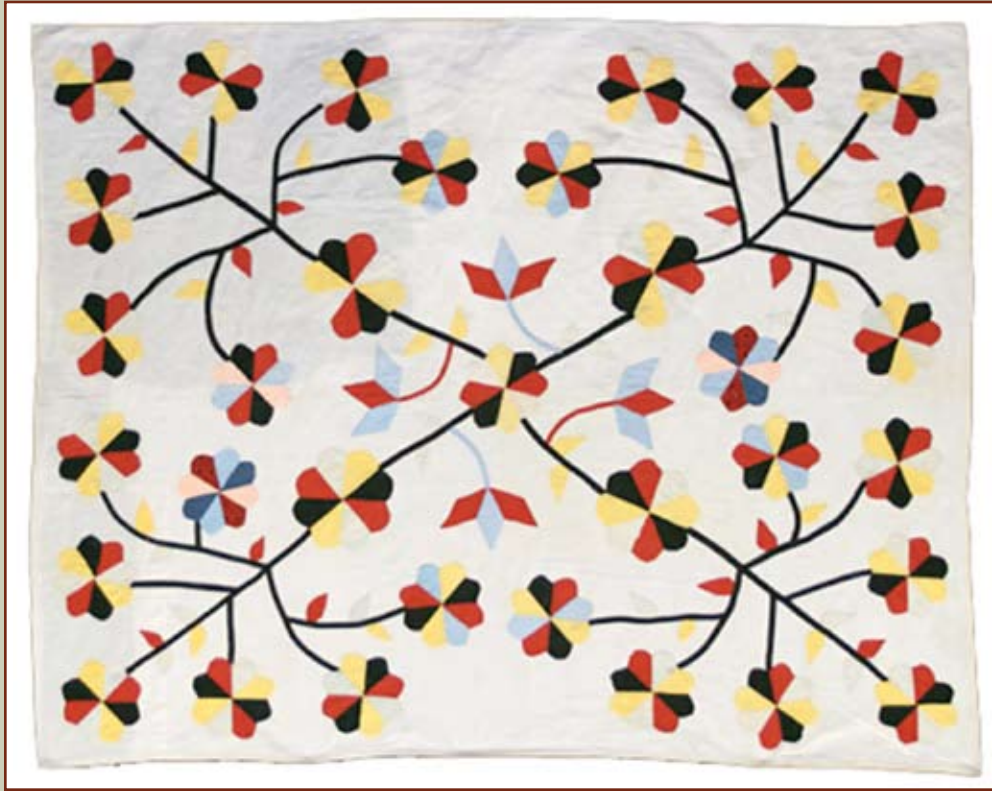


American Indian and Multicultural Connection



"Four Block Floral Appliqué Quilt" by Unknown Chippewa Woman, c. 1915, Cotton, 52" x 72", Michigan State University Museum 2005:25.1

Quilting was introduced to Native Americans by settlers as well as missionaries who sought to "civilize" the natives by teaching them traditional European homemaking skills. Quilts were not common with Eastern tribes, but in the Southeast, the Seminole adapted their tradition of strip piecework into quilts. In the late 1800s it was a long trip from the Everglades to trade for cotton cloth so women began sewing strips made from the fabric left on the end of the bolts to make what was know as "strip clothing". The sewing machine became available to these women around the end of the 19th century making it possible to

use much smaller strips. Seminole designs grew to become even more elaborate and complex. Seminole patchwork was usually used for traditional dress including the women's long full skirts and big patchwork shirts worn by the men. Even today these garments are worn for special occasions. These beautiful Seminole patchwork patterns eventually became popular in quilt making as well. Plains and Southwest tribes have also adapted their traditions from other artforms into quilting. (http://www.womenfolk.com/quilting_history/nativeam.htm)