

Black Belt Treasures 10th Anniversary Gala October 1st

Minnie and Tinnie (pronounced Tiny) Pettway are not just two of the most recognizedilters from Gee's Bend; they are also sisters, roommates, accomplished bakers, storytellers, and best friends. When they were young children, they never saw quilting as an art – it was just something that was a part of their

family, their culture and their life. One of their chores was to pick cotton, and they were often made to piece their mother's quilts as punishment for misbehaving. But many years later, after getting away from Wilcox County and the region entirely, they found their way home to the "River Bend". They rediscovered

quilting and the culture of their small, close knit community, and they found their passion and calling. And they found a little fame along the way.

Minnie and Tinnie have been a part of the Black Belt Treasures family since almost the beginning – and were part of the inspiration for its formation

prior to opening. Today you can purchase not only one of their full sized quilts at BBTCAC, but their quilted pot holders - miniature works of art in their own right, which have been one of the top sellers each year.

Join us on October 1st, 2015 at our Tenth Anniversary event to celebrate the art and cultural heritage of Minnie and Tinnie and all of our Black Belt Artists.

Since opening on October 1, 2005 BBTCAC has grown from representing just under 75 artists in its gallery to well over 450; become a tourist attraction to visitors from all 50 United States and 27 foreign countries; grown as a teaching and learning center for the arts as well as a business selling arts and crafts from across its 19 county Black Belt region; and served as an advocate for preserving our rich culture and history.

The events of October 1 will begin at 5:00 p.m. with southern cuisine, entertainment and music from Marengo County musician Toney Nixon. A program honoring those who have contributed to BBTCAC's successes will begin at 6:00 p.m. The evening will conclude with additional music and a book signing of "Visions of the Black Belt: A Cultural Survey of the Heart of Alabama" at 7:00 p.m. Author, Valerie Pope Burns, and Photographer, Robin McDonald, will be in attendance along with

were featured in the 264 page full color coffee table book that guides readers through the Black Belt's towns and architecture and introduces the region's great panoply of citizens, farmers, artists & craftspeople, cooks, writers, and musicians. Books will be available for purchase through BBTCAC.

Tickets for the evening will be available for \$25 per person, and may be purchased at BBTCAC (209 Claiborne Street in Camden), or by calling (334) 682-9878. Additional event details will be posted on BBTCAC's Facebook and Twitter feed, as well as on their website at www.blackbelttreasures.com.



Minnie and Tinnie. Quilters being interviewed (above) and picture of quilt (below)