



Blacksburg Regional Art Association Event Week

Miles C. Horton Jr. Gallery Moss Arts Center 190 Alumni Mall, Virginia Tech Blacksburg, Virginia

**Great Road Style: The Decorative
Arts Legacy of Southwest Virginia
Wed., April 15, 12 to 1:30 p.m.**

**Free and open to the public. Co-sponsored by the
Center for the Arts at Virginia Tech.**

Betsy White, Art Historian

Join Betsy K. White as she takes us down the Great Philadelphia Wagon Road on a cultural heritage discovery trip through Southwest Virginia & Northeast Tennessee. During this illustrated slide lecture, we'll encounter the friendly country forms of pie safes and crazy quilts, colorful pottery decorated with dabs, splashes or cobalt blue flowers, high-style furniture made by a Philadelphia-trained cabinetmaker and beautiful wool and linen coverlets woven at home on large barn looms. Settled last in Virginia, this was the frontier and witness to a great migration of new Americans from Europe and the British Isles who poured down the Valley of Virginia during the last half of the 18th and first years of the 19th centuries. Artisans followed settlers and tradition combined with evolving market preference to create a lively mix of decorative arts that became Great Road Style. Betsy White is the former director of William King Museum of Art in Abingdon where she created the Cultural Heritage Project, a decorative arts survey of fifteen counties in Southwest Virginia and Northeast Tennessee, two areas linked geographically and culturally. The project's public archive holds more than 2000 records. Betsy is the author of two books, *Great Road Style: The Decorative Arts Legacy of Southwest Virginia & Northeast Tennessee*, published in 2006 by the University of Virginia Press and *Backcountry Makers: An Artisan History of Southwest Virginia & Northeast Tennessee*, published by the University of Tennessee Press in 2013.