



The world wakes up to quilts

It may not be an obvious crowd pleaser, but 'Quilts 1700-2010' turned out to be the surprise success of the spring season. Artist Tracey Emin officially opened the show, curated by Sue Prichard, at a boisterous private view on 15 March with a heartfelt endorsement of the beauty and craftsmanship on show in the exhibition.

Tracey's view was shared by the newspapers, many of which responded with five-star reviews. "It deserves its enormous success," wrote Laura Cumming in the *Observer*. "It's a show to enthrall

and inspire in equal measure." The *Sunday Telegraph* agreed, calling the exhibition "lavish and enthralling", while Viv Groskop in the *Guardian* described it as "transporting". Waldemar Januszczak of the *Sunday Times* found himself reduced to tears. "I read these details through wet eyes. That is the power these things have," he wrote. "That is why people sew quilts. That is why this is an engrossing show."

There's still time to be engrossed, enthralled and inspired if you hurry – 'Quilts 1700-2010' runs until 4 July.

Top row from left: quilt artist Caren Garfen, V&A trustee Samia Shah (left) with Betty Jackson, writer Tracy Chevalier. Middle row: the V&A's Damien Whitmore (left) with Stephen Bayley, Tracey Emin, Grayson Perry. Far left: curator Sue Prichard with Sarah Brown. All photos © V&A Images