

## **CQA/ACC Guidelines for Quilting Competitions/Exhibitions**

The CQA/ACC policy for competitive quilting encourages traditional and contemporary design in quilting, using both innovative and time-honored techniques. The techniques used should be consistent with the design and use of the work.

It is the responsibility of the organizers of quilting exhibitions to clearly state the criteria for entry in the exhibition, often presented as a "Call for Entry". With far more recognized types of work considered quilts, the call for entry for an exhibition should clearly state the categories that will be accepted in the show. The CQA/ACC, in its juried exhibitions, provides a venue for a variety of categories.

A list of definitions and resources is provided at the end of this document.

### **THE JURIED/JUDGED EXHIBITION**

A juried exhibition is one in which works displayed have been selected, by slide/digital/photographs of entries or from actual entries by knowledgeable jurors using predetermined guidelines. A juried exhibition may or may not be judged. A judged exhibition is a show displaying quilt works, from which judges select outstanding works for awards according to the organizer's guidelines.

The juried and/or judged exhibition requires several components to be successful.

### **THE ORGANIZERS' RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **1. Prior to and During the Show**

- a. Determine show format
- b. Produce a Call for Entry, which clearly states the requirements for acceptance
- c. Set guidelines and oversee jurying/judging of show.
- d. Provide detailed information concerning shipping and hanging requirements of accepted quilts to the entrants, either directly or through the jury coordinator.
- e. Ensure that confirmation of the quilts' arrival is sent promptly to the quilter. Open all entries with a witness present. Photograph and document quilts that arrive in questionable condition. Notify the quilter immediately and only take corrective measures with the written permission of the quilter.
- f. Hang the accepted entries for exhibit.
- g. Provide security for the quilts and insurance information to the entrants.

#### **2. Jurying and Judging**

- a. Select the jurors and/or judges
- b. Clearly indicate to the jurors/judges in writing what is required of them, including all necessary instructions and documents prior to judging/jurying. This may take the form of a contract.
- c. Ensure that the juror's critiques, if written, acceptance and rejection letters, without personal comments, are sent to all entrants. Provide detailed information concerning shipping and hanging requirements of accepted quilts.
- d. Provide clarification or consultation, if requested, during the jurying/judging process.
- e. Provide either scribes or dictation/transcription equipment for judges, as required.

### **3. After the Show**

- a. Return the quilts to entrants within a specified time frame.
- b. Pack the quilts for return with appropriate packaging materials and all necessary documentation.
- c. Ship judge's critiques, prizes and award rosettes either with the quilts or separately via a traceable carrier.

## **THE JUROR'S/JUDGE'S GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

All critiques/comments should be based on the quilt presented, not on the quality of the image, except in the case of poor image quality, where the quilt cannot be critiqued properly.

1. Review the organizers' guidelines and award criteria in advance and comply with these during deliberations.
2. Remain open-minded when carrying out duties.
3. Articulate decisions clearly to the organizers.
4. Prepare written critiques, if required, being tactful and diplomatic with written comments.
5. Practice discretion in all matters related to the jurying or judging process.

## **JURYING CRITERIA**

1. Adherence to the requirements stated in the show's Call for Entry
2. Visual impact
3. Design balance, rhythm, proportion
4. Harmony and use of colour.
5. Pleasing material pattern and texture, where it can be observed
6. Suitability of materials as they relate to design & function where it can be observed.
7. Technical proficiency where it can be observed

## **JUDGING CRITERIA**

1. General appearance
  - a. overall statement
  - b. tidy presentation
  - c. clean
  - d. threads concealed (where appropriate)
  - e. properly identified (label)
  - f. hangs as intended
2. Design
  - a. over-all composition
  - b. balance
  - c. rhythm
  - d. proportion
  - e. use of colour
  - f. appropriate choice of material pattern and texture, in keeping with the intended use of the quilt
  - g. appropriate choice of quilting pattern and material
  - h. borders/bindings/edges enhance & complement the work
  - i. suitability of materials as they relate to design & function

### 3. Workmanship

- a. Traditional Techniques
  - i. precision of construction of top
  - ii. borders – straight if intended to lie flat
  - iii. binding - appropriate to use of quilt.
  - iv. quilting - suitable techniques
  - v. backing – compatible with top - smooth, wrinkle free, knots concealed
- b. Contemporary Techniques
  - i. should be consistent with design as a whole

## **ENTRANT'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **1. Submission of Entry**

- a. Adhere to the entry guidelines and deadlines as described in the Call for Entry
- b. Provide clear, high resolution digital images or photographs, as directed in the Call for Entry.
- c. Provide all information and fees, as requested in the Call for Entry.
- d. Ensure quilt is available for the duration of the show/exhibition.

### **2. Accepted Entry**

- a. Retain all correspondence and contracts.
- b. Note arrival and return dates as stated in Call for Entry and/or letter of acceptance.
- c. Note whether there are exhibition fees paid to artist or they have been waived.
- d. Clarify at the outset whose responsibility it is to pay postage, insurance, customs, and brokerage fees (if crossing a border), etc.
- e. Contact personal insurance agent to guarantee that quilt(s) is covered against loss or damage while in transit and during the show. Ensure understanding of the insurance provisions of the exhibition sponsor. Inquire if a written appraisal is required if a claim is made.
- f. Properly pack quilt for shipment taking into consideration method and transit time of shipping.
- g. Ship quilt(s), including clear instructions, money or prepaid shipping label to cover the costs of preferred method of return shipping of entry, if the organizers' chosen shipping method is not acceptable.

### **2. Unsuccessful Entry**

- a. Consider comments or critiques by jurors/judges, if provided, as a constructive tool for future quilting.
- b. Review entry criteria to ensure that standards of quilting and completeness of entry package were met. Ensure quality of submitted image was adequate for review by jurors.
- c. Try again; the quilt could go on to be successful in a different show/exhibition.

## DEFINITIONS

**Artist's Statement:** A clear and concise statement, written in the first person, to accompany a work. Usually not more than 200 words, the statement should describe to the viewer the relationship between the quilter and the piece presented, what influenced the quilter to create this particular piece and the techniques employed.

**Call for Entry:** The document in which the criteria for a competition/exhibition are described. These include the deadlines, fees, theme (if applicable), sizes, categories, and entry procedure and may include a list of awards and sponsors. This document should also request; the source of design and list credits of all involved in the process, including the photography. The Call for Entry may also include information about the show's insurance.

**Contemporary Quilt:** A quilt in which the basic structural characteristics of a quilt are employed but one that explores design, colour, techniques and materials beyond those used in the traditional discipline.

**Group Quilt:** A quilt in which more than one person has contributed to the construction and/or quilting of the finished quilt.

**Judge:** A person with extensive knowledge and background in quilting, art and/or design, who has been appointed by the organizers of the event to evaluate the entries in a competition following a predetermined set of guidelines.

**Judged Exhibition:** A show, displaying quilt works, from which judges select outstanding works for awards according to the organizers guidelines.

**Juried Exhibition:** A show in which works displayed have been selected, by slide/digital/photographs of entries or from actual entries by knowledgeable jurors using predetermined guidelines. A juried exhibition may or may not be judged.

**Juror:** A person with extensive knowledge and background in quilting, art, and/or design, who has been appointed by the organizers to select quilts for an exhibit/competition that meet the preliminary requirements. The Juror(s) rely on past experience when choosing the entries from slides/digital images/photographs, based on the aesthetic principles. Pieces may also be selected to complete a cohesive collection of work if for an exhibition only.

**Jury Process:** The process by which a panel of jurors reviews the entries and selects the works by submitted slides/digital images/photographs of works or the actual quilts that will comprise the show using predetermined guidelines. A personal (artists') statement may also be considered.

**Individual Quilt:** A quilt in which one individual completed the entire process.

**Traditional Quilt:** A quilt made using well-established techniques, blocks, patterns or designs in pleasing colour combinations and approaches to combining the blocks.

**Wearable Art:** a garment or outfit constructed using quilting techniques, with some quilted areas.