

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

As well as a few we anticipate being asked.

## **I see that the 2020 Show Chair Theme is “Double Vision.” What the heck does that mean?**

This year, rather than making it more confusing with specific rules, we’re returning to the “what does this theme make you think of?” train of thought for planning an entry.

To give you a starting point, the year 2020, which is side-by-side repeated digits, is what inspired Cindy Matthews to choose this theme.

Some words and phrases that might help you think up an idea:

- Reflections
- Positive/Negative

## **What are the most popular categories?**

Two-person Artisan categories always attract a number of entries. Other categories that attract a large number of entries are Seniors and the two Small Quilt categories.

## **Will you notify me if my quilt is accepted?**

Because the show is not juried, we do not send “acceptance” notification. If your entry forms and fees are received before we reach our 400 quilt limit, your quilt is in. If they are received after that point, we will return your entry to you.

The only correspondence you will receive is the delivery instructions and placement cards. Use a shipping method with tracking if you need confirmation of receipt.

## **What’s the difference between the Modern Quilt category and other categories like Art Quilt, Large Pieced Quilt, Contemporary Small Quilt, etc?**

Truthfully, the differences between many categories is somewhat blurry. Many Modern Quilts could qualify as Pieced, Applique and/or Art Quilts. For that matter, there are Art Quilts

that could fall into Other Techniques, Pieced or Applique categories. Many quilters identify strongly with one style. Choose the category you feel best fits your quilt.

## **I made a crib-sized quilt that I want to enter. It’s not large enough for the pieced or appliqué categories, but I didn’t make it to hang on the wall either. What category does it go in?**

If it is smaller than 72” on all sides, it qualifies for one of the “Wall Quilt” category regardless of how you plan to use the quilt.

## **You have a rule that if someone has had a quilt juried into a “prestigious exhibit” that you must enter in the Masters category. I had a quilt juried into AQS last year. Does that make me a master?**

Not necessarily. AQS, IQA, and other very large quilt shows usually have categories for amateurs and professionals. While inclusion in the show is certainly an honor, these organizations select a large number of quilts for display. The exhibits that we refer to are the ones that are VERY selective; usually only 50 or so quilters are selected for inclusion nationwide/internationally. An example of that type of show is Quilt National.

## **I made a quilt using antique blocks that my grandmother made. Since I finished piecing the top and am doing the quilting, can I enter this in a “one person” category?**

No. Your grandmother participated in the making of the quilt, therefore the quilt would be a two-person entry.

## **I made a quilt using old blocks I have collected over time. Is that a two-person quilt?**

Not necessarily. If you do not know who made the blocks and they were acquired on different occasions, chances are they were constructed by more than one person. Adding yourself to two or more equals three or more, and the quilt must be entered in the Group Quilts category.

## **My friendship group had a challenge. We all want to enter our quilts in the show, but would like to have them displayed together. Is that possible?**

As long as they are being entered into the same category, absolutely! Let the entries committee know what you would like to do and provide a complete list of the entrants and quilts that you want featured together. It also helps to put some designation on the entry forms for the quilts in question. For example, you might all place a dayglo-colored signal dot in the upper left corner.

Another possibility you can consider is submitting a proposal for a special exhibit about a year in advance of the show you want to do a display in. (Waiting until a month before the show is a no-go.)

## **I made a quilt that Suzy Professional Quilter entered in a show. The quilt won a ribbon in that show. Since Suzy is a professional, do I have to enter this quilt in the Master division?**

In our show, the quilt is categorized by the MAKER. The QGD considers the person who made the top to be the “maker.” Therefore, if you made the top and qualify as an “Artisan,” the quilt would go into an “Artisan” category

Note: If you did not participate in the creation of the quilt you are entering, the quilt may be re-categorized as deemed appropriate by the entries/judging committees.

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### **Why do you bar quilters from entering the show the following year if they withdraw an entry too late?**

For many years, we had quilters who bit off much more than they could chew - submitting photos of piles of fabric in anticipation of turning said fabric into a finished quilt within two months. But then reality would set in, and the quilts didn't get finished. But didn't tell anybody. So on quilt-hanging day, we'd find out that ten or fifteen quilts weren't going to be there. Which left blank spots in the middle of the display.

That, coupled with knowing that other entries had been bumped due to surpassing the 400 quilt limit, we decided we had to put our collective feet down.

We felt that by two weeks before show time, a quilter should know whether their project is going to reach fruition in time. And if it's not, they only have to let us know. We don't get mad. Quilts that don't get finished for one year can probably be finished for the next edition of the show. But the knowledge that the entry won't be there, allows us to adjust our display plans accordingly.

### **How do you decide to add a new category or drop an existing category?**

The entries and judges committees keeps a close eye on entry trends over a span of years (3-4) if numbers are consistent enough to justify a new stand-alone category, or interest in a given category is consistently low, we start discussing our options.

For example, over time, we noticed that we had a lot of very small quilts being entered in many different categories. It is very difficult for a really small quilt to stand out when hung next to much larger quilts. And we found that time and time again that was happening.

Our solution was to revise the miniature category to be for "small quilts" and move all quilts smaller than 30" square to that category. It worked out so well, we split the new category into two separate categories so one could feature

small quilts with traditional patterns and themes, while the other would feature more contemporary designs.

### **Why do you require entries to be submitted in fabric bags or pillowcases?**

On setup day, the entries trickle in over a period of about five hours. As we receive them, the entries committee carries them out to the show floor and places them on the floor in front of the spot where it will be hung. The setup crews move around the show floor hanging quilts as quickly as they can. But still - the quilts are on the floor for at least a few minutes - if not an hour or two. We don't want your quilt to get dirty any more than you do.

We have historically requested fabric instead of plastic bags, as fabric is the method of storage recommended by conservation experts. There is also the concern that if a quilt is delivered in a large plastic trash bag, that it might be mistaken for trash by someone who doesn't know better. (there are workers in the building that are not Guild members.)

# How to keep your ears from burning.

This show is run entirely by volunteers. Please help us do our jobs and get home to our families, pets and sewing:

## **Make sure you are using this year's entry form:**

From time to time, category numbers change and category titles shift, or we drop some categories and add new ones. Using the current entry form will help insure your entry is in the category you want it in.

Please note that entering a quilt in our show now requires more than one form. We spun off some of the information to allow us to better track how many entries a given entrant has in the show and to simplify the information requested on the actual entry form.

## **Please be sure you review the rules and category descriptions:**

Our show has been around for a long time, and our rules are written for a reason. Our divisions and categories are specific and well-defined. Please help us out by reading everything thoroughly and choosing the appropriate category for your entry, and then include everything required when you send in your entries.

## **Please take our definition of Master and Artisan seriously:**

If you have EVER done something that our matrix that places you in the Master division, you are a "Master for Life." It doesn't matter how long it's been since you taught or won those blue ribbons or sold your work, once you are a Master in our show you will always be a Master in our show.

## **Please be sure you don't put your Two-Person or Group Quilts into a one-person category:**

The categories in the Masters Division and Artisan Division are predominantly one-person. "One Person" means that only one person did EVERYTHING. They cut the fabric, they sewed the top together, they quilted it and they put the binding on. If you pay someone to do any of those functions (pre-cut kits, long-arm quilting, binding...) it is no

longer a one-person undertaking. If you bought a pile of old quilt blocks at a garage sale and made a quilt out of them, somebody else made those blocks. Thus, no longer a one-person enterprise.

## **Be sure you fill in the dimensions of the quilt:**

You may not know for certain how big or small it will end up after you finish quilting, but we have to have some idea of how wide the quilt is for display planning, and we have to know overall dimensions to ensure it is in the correct category. Please give us your best guess - preferably on the larger side than the smaller side. By the way - please round up to the nearest inch. (i.e. no fractions)

## **Be sure you fill in the name of the quilter:**

Maybe you haven't booked a quilter at the time you are completing the form, but we need the information for the quilt signage (which must be printed in advance) and we need to ensure that you didn't enter a two-person entry in a one-person category (see above).

## **Keep your descriptions short:**

Thirty words is not very many, but our signs are not very big. If you don't edit it, we will.

## **But be sure you say something:**

People like to know about their favorite quilts. Was it made for a special reason? Did it take you a long time? Why did you enter it in the show? Did you collect special fabrics? Just one little glimpse into your quilting heart makes your quilt all the more memorable.

## **Be sure you include the required photo:**

We use the photos submitted to plan the order that the quilts will be hung in the display area. We say bad words when the photos we get are:

- Too dark (taken inside in a dark room without flash)
- Too light (taken against a window,

so light is showing through the quilt, taken with a flash so bright that the colors are blown out, taken outside on a very sunny day with the sun in the background)

- Out of focus/blurry
- Printed on a printer that has run out of one or more ink colors (so the quilt looks like it is a different color than it actually is)
- Not photos at all - copies of pattern covers or drawings of planned design.

We don't expect anyone to submit professional-quality photos, but we do want to know what your quilt really looks like.

And if your top isn't complete enough to take a photo of in early JANUARY, odds are you're not going to get it done before MARCH. Save that entry for another year.

## **Please don't ask us to accept your entry after the entry deadline has passed.**

We simply don't accept late entries, but you can always enter next year.

## **Please don't ship your quilt packed in a million styrofoam peanuts:**

Is your quilt breakable? What do you say in your head when you open a box that is crammed full of a gazillion of those things, and the static electricity scatters them everywhere in the room?

Yeah, we thought so... We don't say nice things either.

## **When placing your quilt into the delivery bag, do not pin or tie the bag closed.**

The hanging crew is wearing white glove to protect the quilts. The dexterity to undo safety pins or undo tightly knotted drawstrings is greatly reduced by the bulk of the gloves.