

# **JUDGING CRITERIA**

*Prepared by Karen Blocher  
National Quilting Association Certified Judge  
National Association of Certified Quilt Judges*

Your evaluation sheet may not reflect a statement on every criterion listed below. However, National Quilting Association Certified Judges, Karen Blocher and Judy Taylor, have commented on the most notable features of your quilt to give you constructive evaluation which we hope you find encouraging and helpful.

## **APPEARANCE AND DESIGN**

1. ***Unity and Design Elements:*** Design of the top, quilting motifs, fabric choices, sashing, borders, imagery, and finishing should be well planned and integrated. Line, shape, color, texture and value should be effectively used to produce an interesting, balanced and well-proportioned design. The quilting patterns should complement the top design, fill the intended spaces well, and be consistent in proportion to the top design elements. Art quilts should embody an original design reflecting innovative construction and design techniques, theme or subject matter and/or materials.
2. ***General Appearance:*** The exhibit item should be neat, clean, and 'show ready' with no visible markings, loose threads, bearding, soil, pet hair, odor or stains. The front and back of the quilt should be free of distortion and obvious sewing problems.

## **WORKMANSHIP**

1. ***General Construction:*** Piecing should be precise; corners matched and points sharp, using appropriate thread type and color. Seams should be secure. Borders should be straight and well executed free of ripples, puckers or stretching. Appliqué elements should be securely attached, free of puckers, using matching thread (unless stitches are decorative). Curves should be smooth and points sharp, free of shadowing of dark fabrics under light.
2. ***Quilting:*** Stitches should be even and consistent with balanced tension, on both quilt front and back. Quilt should be free of knots, backstitches, pleats and bubbles. Starts and stops should be unobtrusive, and as invisible as possible. Quilting density should be sufficient and appropriate for the design of the quilt top, with the consistency of quilting stitches reasonably maintained throughout.
3. ***Finishing:*** Batting should extend to edge of binding with corners neat, well executed, and consistent. Quilt edges should be free of wobbles and distortion. Stitching should be secure. Hand stitches to secure edge finish should be neat, consistent, small, tight and as invisible as possible.
4. ***Special Techniques:*** Embroidery, embellishments, beading, overlays, trapunto, photo transfers, etc., should be secure, neat, effectively executed, and appropriate to the overall design.



***Karen Blocher  
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