

Details that Jurors Look For

Jan Rickman and Sandra Hoefner gave a list of things that jurors look for in quilts submitted to professional art quilt shows.

- the quilt must be the correct size for the show
- unless it has an irregular border, the quilt must be symmetrical (i.e., top and bottom lengths, and, left and right sides must be the equal length [hint: both diagonals must be the same length for squares as well as rectangles])
- the quilt must be flat [hint: during construction, hang your quilt periodically or use a vertical design board to check that your quilt isn't puckering]
- binding must not be rippled or wavy
 - stitch closed mitered corners
 - bias binding must be used for curves, but binding cut on the straight warp and weft are easier to sew without puckers
 - check the website How To... for different solutions (thanks Rita!)
- the sleeve on the back must be the correct size and sewn on straight
- no exposed edges where appliqué has pulled away
- your binding must be full [hint: flat bindings are a result of cutting too wide of a binding or sewing too narrow of a seam]
- hand stitching must be neat
- for machine stitching, the tensions must be correct
- repair broken stitches and birds nests of thread
- if you're using glue, glue must not show and everything glued must be securely glued
- press or steam out wrinkles
- quilt labels for AQuA must, as a minimum, have name and title and be placed on the back, lower left corner as you're looking at the back
- fill out the application forms completely
- make sure that the photograph of your quilt is of sufficient quality and matches your quilt (i.e., the colors in the photograph are true to the quilt and the quilt size is correct)

- false backing can hide a multitude of things and give stiffness to your quilts
 - some jurors will downgrade your quilt since they can't see your quilting and craft techniques on the back
 - there are several ways to stiffen a quilt without putting on a false back
- remove the following:
 - loose threads
 - animal hair, human hair or fuzz
 - stained spots

In summary, the pieces we enter for AQuA are art QUILTS, not fabric art. Our craft skills using traditional quilting techniques will also be judged. If you're struggling with something, AQuA members have a wide variety of experience and talent. Someone will be able to make suggestions.

Notes by Emmalee Blender 5/15/10