

CALL FOR ENTRIES

“Secret Garden”

Pennsylvania National Quilt Extravaganza September 17-20, 2026

Deadline: July 16, 2026 NO EXCEPTIONS

THEME: The Art Quilt Association members explore what creates their perfect secret garden. Is it the hidden entrance? A secret urban oasis or one that requires a hike to a favorite wild meadow? Is it the special peace of a reflecting pool or trickle of water that soothes us and the birds, wildlife, faeries, and ogres alike who sneak in? Is it nature's unexpected display secluded from the chatter of the outside world? Or is it the promise of summer beauty in the depths of winter? Or perhaps just the joy of digging into the soil that supports these flower and plant strewn places? So many secrets for AQuA to share.

DESIGN RULES:

- All pieces must be the ORIGINAL work of AQuA members. No quilt may be constructed using a commercial pattern. No commercial machine quilting patterns may be used.
- If pieces are based on the work of another artist, members must secure written permission from that artist, and provide a copy with their entry.
- If the quilt was begun in a workshop, the workshop teacher's name and technique must be credited on the back. A workshop teacher's pattern is not acceptable, only the technique.
- No more than two (2) AQuA members may collaborate on the construction of a quilt, and both members must be listed on the entry form.
- Entries cannot be smaller than 96 inches minimum perimeter or larger than 252 inches maximum perimeter. Entries cannot exceed a maximum length of 72 inches. Entries cannot exceed a depth of 5" for shipping purpose.
- Diptychs and triptychs are acceptable providing their size, including space between the pieces, remains within the size restrictions, listed above.

SLEEVE REQUIREMENTS: A top sleeve is required on the back of the quilt. Please consult the instructions on our Website under “Member Information, How to instructions.” This technique is mandatory. Please do not wait until the last minute to ask how to complete this correctly and have your hard work disqualified for incorrect sleeve attachment.

LABEL: A cloth label must be sewn or fused to the bottom left-hand side of the quilt back. That label must include the title of the quilt and your name. You may include additional contact information, but it is not required.

ENTRY FEE: There will be a non-refundable fee of \$20.00 for the first entry, and a non-refundable entry fee of \$10 for each additional entry. See Fee section on Entry Form.

PHOTOGRAPHY: Professional quality photography is required for all quilts. The photography fee is \$20.00 for each quilt, which will include a full shot and one close-up. You will receive a CD with your quilt images or on a thumb drive you provide at turn in. You may also arrange for your own professional photographer. A two-color digital image (full & close-up) must be submitted on CD or thumb drive at turn in on July 16, 2026 with your quilt. Digital images must be 300 dpi minimum, at least 4 x 6 and saved in jpeg format.

DUE DATE: July 16, 2026 at the AQuA meeting and absolutely no exceptions will be made.

JURYING: All quilts will be juried via CD by Linda Colsh. The juror will be asked to select five juror's picks for our website and will also prepare a two or three line critique for each quilt juried and those critiques will be emailed to the makers.

MEMBERS CHOICE: All members present at the July 16, 2026 AQuA meeting will be asked to vote for their one favorite as “member's choice.” The Member's Choice will be featured on our website.

SHIPPING RESTRICTIONS: Creating dimensional quilts complicates shipping our quilts as a group so design with this in mind. Please contact Lynda Stahl for additional information if your submission needs special packing.

PET HAIR: Please be sure that your quilt is free of pet hair when you turn it in.

THE SHOW COMMITTEE will examine each quilt after submission. All quilts must meet the above guidelines or they will be rejected from this competition.

SHOW CO-CHAIRMEN: Terry Lee, Mary Grande & Lynda Stahl

