

Definition of an Art Quilt

An art quilt is an original exploration of a concept or idea rather than a pattern. It experiments with textile manipulation, colour, texture and/or a diversity of mixed media. An art quilt should consist predominantly of fibre or fibre-like material with multiple layers which are held together with stitches or piercing of the layers.

Art quilts fall into three categories:

1. Pictorial (realism) – may be a person, animal or landscape
2. Abstract – including architectural designs
3. Textile Translation – using photos or a famous painting

The following guidelines give examples of dos and don'ts when making an art quilt:

- All work must be from your own original design. Concepts borrowed from others must be credited in your quilt story
- Designs made from a pattern or traditional quilting pattern or block are not acceptable
- Using a single piece of commercially produced cloth without altering other than adding stitching or beading does not fall under the definition of an art quilt
- Using your own photos in your quilt is acceptable, if using another person's photos then you must obtain permission and must provide a copy of that permission in writing with the quilt show entry form
- Using someone else's quilt for the background of your art quilt is not acceptable
- Can contain multiple fibre types. e.g. Fabric, embroidery floss, yarn, beading, wool fibre etc.
- Can be mounted on an artist canvas, must have hook hanger or some other means of connecting the piece to fishing line for hanging *
- Can have a plain fabric backing (no quilting visible) *

*Indicates new criteria