

The Minnesota Quilt Show Judged Quilt Exhibit Details



The Judged Exhibit is an opportunity to receive constructive feedback on your quilt entry from members of the National Association of Certified Quilt Judges (NACQJ). There is also an opportunity for the many ribbons and awards that may be granted. Enter a quilt; you'll be glad you did.

SPECIAL RIBBONS AND AWARDS

- Best of Show Large Quilt \$1,500
- Best of Show Small Quilt \$1,500
- Exemplary Hand Quilting \$1,000
- Exemplary Movable Machine Quilting \$1,000
- Exemplary Stationary Machine Quilting \$1,000
- Judge's Recognition – Judge 1 \$100
- Judge's Recognition – Judge 2 \$100

SPECIAL RIBBONS

- Best Miniaturization
- Minnesota Award (this award is Judged and Non-Judged)
- Judge's Special Recognition – both Judge 1 and Judge 2
- NACQJ Award of Merit – both Judge 1 and Judge 2

1ST, 2ND, 3RD PLACE RIBBONS AND AWARDS

- Awards: 1st place \$500, 2nd place \$375, and 3rd place \$175.

Eligible categories are in the table below, and the category definitions are on the next page.

JUDGED QUILT CATEGORIES AND SIZES

Category		Person	Size	
			Minimum	Maximum
Appliqué	Large	1	280" perimeter	110" x 110"
		2		
	Small	1 or 2	None	Less than 280" perimeter
Art		1 or 2	None	110" x 110"
Group		≥3	None	110" x 110"
Mixed Technique	Large	1 or 2	280" perimeter	110" x 110"
	Small	1 or 2		Less than 280" perimeter
Modern		1 or 2	None	110" x 110"
Other Techniques		1 or 2	None	110" x 110"
Pictorial		1 or 2	None	110" x 110"
Pieced	Large	1	280" perimeter	110" x 110"
		2		
	Small	1 or 2	None	Less than 280" perimeter
Upcycled		1 or 2	None	110" x 110"
Workmanship		1 or 2	None	110" x 110"
Best Miniaturization is based on miniaturized quilts entered in Appliqué, Mixed Techniques, Modern or Pieced. Maximum size is 96" perimeter.				
Be sure to read category definitions carefully.				

IMPORTANT DATES

- Entry deadline is Wednesday, April 16, 2025, at 2:00 pm
- Quilt Drop Off at MQ Office June 3-6
 - In-person from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm
 - By mail
- Quilt Pick Up
 - St Cloud – June 21 from 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm
 - MQ Office – June 25-26 from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm
 - Return shipping to entrants – June 27

QUILT ENTRY

- Register at <https://mnquilt.org/mq2025/>
- Limit of two entries, with each being in a different category
- Per entries, non-refundable entry fee (US funds)
 - \$25.00 Minnesota Quilters Inc. member
 - \$40.00 non-members
- Entries require a full front view photograph of the quilt (or top), with the quilt filling the entire photograph.

ENTRY RULES

- Entries must be completed on or after January 1, 2023.
- Pattern and designer. If the pattern is an original, use your name as the designer. MQ does not require pattern designer permission for quilt entry; the designer may.
- Quilts require three distinct layers (quilt top, batting, backing) and must be visibly quilted through all layers.
- A label and hanging sleeve are required.
 - The label should be on the bottom left corner of the back, as seen from the back.
 - A 4" wide hanging sleeve securely attached at the top of the quilt back is required. Quilts 90" or longer require a secondary sleeve attached no higher than 88 from the bottom of the quilt.
- The following are not allowed:
 - Lined or false backs
 - Tied quilts
 - Kits, except for the Workmanship category
 - Rigid frames, rods, or mounting devices
 - Rods sewn into the quilt sleeve
- MQ sponsors and judges are not eligible to enter the judged competition.

SHIPPING, HANDLING, AND INSURANCE

- Entries must arrive at MQ between June 3-6.
- Quilts with fragile dimensional elements must be securely packaged in a rigid box to avoid damage during shipping.
- Entrants are responsible for the insurance of their quilts during shipping to and from MQ.
- Entries are insured by MQ while in MQ's possession.
- Entrants shipping quilts to the show and back to the entrant must provide a prepaid shipping label, or stamps in the case of USPS, for the return of their quilts.

PAYMENT

- Credit card: Amex, Visa, Mastercard, Discover
- Check payable to Minnesota Quilters Inc.
 - The entrant's name is on the memo line
 - Mail to Bookkeeper at
Minnesota Quilters Inc
253 State Street
St. Paul, MN 55107-1612
 - Registration will be finalized when the check is received.

JUDGED EXHIBIT CATEGORY AND AWARD DETAILS

Appliqué

Large 1 Person, Large 2 Person, Small 1 or 2 Person

Quilts that use hand or machine appliqué as the predominant construction technique. Quilting may be by hand or machine.

Art

1 or 2 Person

Quilts made from an original design, reflecting innovative construction and design techniques, theme or subject matter, and/or materials. No commercial patterns or copies of previous works are allowed. Quilts must be made predominantly of fabric, have three layers, and contain hand or machine quilting through all layers. Art quilts can include embellishments with thread, multiple types of fabrics, beads, and many non-traditional materials to enhance the design.

Group

≥3 Person

Quilts created by three or more people using any technique. All work may be done by hand, machine, or combination.

Mixed Technique

Large 1 or 2 Person, Small 1 or 2 Person

Quilts with a balanced combination of appliqué and piecing.

Modern

1 or 2 Person

Quilts inspired by modern design have characteristics of minimalism, asymmetry, expansive negative space, bold colors and prints, improvisational piecing, alternate grid work, high contrast, and graphic areas of solid color.

Other Techniques

1 or 2 Person

Quilts that use technique(s) other than applique or piecing to develop the design of the top. Other techniques may include hand or machine embroidery, cathedral window, crazy quilting, whole cloth, etc. Quilts may include some piecing and appliqué, embellishments, or surface design techniques, or it may be whole cloth where one piece of material is used, and the quilting creates the design.

Pictorial

1 or 2 Person

Quilts that depict a person, place, thing, or scene realistically or abstractly. They may include piecing, any type of appliqué, embellishments, or surface design techniques.

Pieced

Large 1 Person, Large 2 Person, Small 1 or 2 Person

Quilts that use piecing as the predominant construction technique. They may be hand or machine-pieced and hand or machine-quilted.

Upcycled

1 or 2 Person

Quilts made from materials previously used for something else, including, but not limited to, clothing, upholstery, bags, napkins, placemats, tablecloths, other cloth objects, or old quilts reimagined into a new configuration. Quilts can be of any style (pieced, applique, mixed, modern, art, pictorial) but must include at least 50% upcycled materials on the front of the quilt. The quilt should lay flat rather than be a freestanding sculpture or garment. Usual judging criteria will apply, but special consideration will be given to the creative use of materials.

Workmanship

1 or 2 Person

Quilts made from any Row by Row, Mystery, Kit, or Quilt Shop Block of the Month. Quilts may include piecing and/or appliqué by hand or machine. Many of the design and/or fabric decisions were made by someone other than the entrant; therefore, judges will focus on workmanship or how well the entrant has used the given elements to create the finished quilt.

Best Miniaturization Award

Miniaturized quilts entered in Applique, Mixed Techniques, Modern, or Pieced categories are considered for this award. Judges consider workmanship and miniaturization detail. Miniaturized quilts replicate a full-size quilt pattern reduced proportionally to a quilt measuring a maximum perimeter of 96". If blocks are used, they should be no larger than 4" square. The quilt should look like a full-size quilt or wall hanging in a full front view photo of the finished piece without indicating scale.

DEFINITIONS

- **Quilt.** Quilts require three distinct layers (quilt top, batting, backing) and must be quilted through all layers. All work may be done by hand, machine, or any combination.
- **Quilt Entrant.** The person who constructed the quilt top.
- **1 Person.** Any quilt constructed by one person during making, quilting, or finishing.
- **2 Person.** Any quilt constructed by two people during making, quilting, or finishing. This includes made by one person and quilted by another.
- **Machine Quilting.**
 - **Movable.** The machine is mounted on a frame where the machine moves over the quilt sandwich.
 - **Stationary.** The machine sits on or is attached to a table where the quilt sandwich moves under the needle.

MQ RESERVES THE RIGHT TO:

- Limit Judged entries to 180 quilts.
- Refuse quilts that exhibit poor quality construction, have been misrepresented by the photograph, are soiled or stained, do not adhere to the size restrictions, or have been entered in the judged competition at a previous MQ Show.
- Categories of five (5) or fewer entries may be combined or eliminated. Entrants will be contacted to discuss options.

Need More Information or Help?

- Visit <https://mnquilt.org/mq2025/>
- For hanging sleeve and label help, <https://mnquilt.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/HangingSleeve.pdf>
- For registration help, email quiltentryhelp@mnquilt.org
- For other Judged questions, email judged@mnquilt.org