



## Quilt Competition Categories

### Quilt Competition Categories: Multiple Awards

The following categories receive ribbons and prize money or prizes for the top three winners. All entries are reviewed and MQX Quilt Festivals reserves the right to jury an entry into a different category. For most categories, additional ribbons are awarded for instances where the entrant and machine quilter are two different people.

**Please read the categories and rules carefully to make sure your entry is in the proper category.** Improperly categorized entries may be subject to disqualification. Contact MQX if you need category guidance.

### Primary Categories with Multiple Ribbons

**Computerized Quilting:** Entries must have at least 75% of the machine quilting using a computer-guided quilting system with the software engaged during the quilting process. The remaining 25% of the quilting process may be freehand, including stitch-in-the-ditch. Entry may be of any size with a minimum of 100 perimeter inches. Embellishments and non-traditional threads are permitted.

**Custom Heirloom/Show:** Entries may incorporate freehand quilting, outlining, individual block designs and inventive background fillers. Embellishments, non-traditional threads, thread painting, surface design techniques, etc. are permitted. Minimum size is 280 perimeter inches.

**Custom "Our Daily Bed:"** Functional bed quilts that are meant for daily use and have been machine quilted with high quality custom quilting techniques. NO painted

surfaces, embellishments, metallic threads or thread painting are permitted. Entry must be clearly seen as a usable, bed size quilt.

**Edge-to-Edge Hand Guided:** An all-over quilt pattern which is derived from pantograph or freehand quilting. The quilting pattern must cover the quilt completely from one edge to the other. NO separate border patterns or block patterns permitted. Computerized Edge-to-Edge entries must be entered into the Computerized Quilting category.

**Emerging Entrants:** For those quilters who have not previously entered any MQX Quilt Festival show or any other nationally recognized quilt show. This category is intended for those quilters that have some experience but not yet ready to compete with more experienced machine quilters. Entrants in this category may enter one quilt for two consecutive shows or years.

**Kids Can Quilt!:** Only the machine quilting is judged. The quilt may be pieced

### Special Exhibit Entries

There are two special exhibits that require an entry form for MQX New England 2020:

- Men at Work — and Play!  
*Curated by Scott Murkin*
- LANE Challenge *by the New England Longarm Quilters*

The Challenge descriptions and entry form may be found on the MQX Website under the Quilt Show tab.



by anyone with the machine quilting completed exclusively by the entrant. The quilting may be hand-guided or computerized and is open to ages 6 to 16 with the age of the entrant determined as of February 1, 2019. Entries are limited, enter early. Entry must measure a minimum of 100 perimeter inches and may be of any style.

### **Machine Quilting the Modern Way:**

Celebrating machine quilting that emphasizes and compliments modern style quilts. Common features of modern quilting include bold piecing utilizing bold fabrics, high contrast and graphic areas, improvisational piecing, minimalism, expansive negative space and alternate grid work. Machine quilting enhances the graphic nature of the quilt top with quilting designs used in different and unexpected ways. Entries must be a minimum of 100 perimeter inches.

**New Traditions in Textiles: *The Cathy Wiggins Award*** In this category, fiber artists are not limited to creating with traditional woven fabrics and are permitted to stretch the boundaries of what constitutes "fiber"

and "textile." Artists may use (*but are not limited to*) cheesecloth, vinyl, leather, paper, felted fibers, Mylar, Tyvek, and many other materials, including vintage textiles, that may behave like textiles in given circumstances. Unlike other categories, entries in this category may be framed or presented in non-traditional forms and need not fit the traditional definition of a quilt. All entries **MUST** contain machine quilting in some part of their construction. A separate judging form is used for this category to accommodate the unique items that are entered.

**Solo Artist:** The entry has been completed, in its entirety, by one person only. Any style is permitted. Embellishments and any style of surface modification is acceptable.

## **Judges for MQX Quilt Festival**

*All judges hired by MQX are certified quilt judges.*

**Scott Murkin,**  
Permanent Lead Judge  
Asheboro, North Carolina

**Mary Derry**  
Bradford, New Hampshire

**Kathy Kerler**  
Portland, Oregon

## **Who will YOU Inspire?**

The future of machine quilting rests with our young quilters. MQX has a category entitled Kids Can Quilt!

Please inspire someone...a son, daughter, grandchildren, neighbor or young person in your life to participate. MQX will award a mentor ribbon for her/his role in assisting the entrant to learn about machine quilting.

To further inspire young quilters, MQX also offers a discounted administration fee of \$20. Youth registration is not available online. Please call MQX Student Services at 603.778.6994 to register youth student(s).

Who will YOU inspire today?



**Wallhanging:** Quilts to be used as a wall decoration, (not a bed quilt). Thread play, fibers, fringes, crystals and embellishments are permitted. Quilt may be art, pictorial or traditional style (modern quilts should be entered into the new Machine Quilting the Modern Way category). There are two separate categories based on size:

**Wallhanging Large:** Quilts in this category must measure larger than 160 perimeter inches.

**Wallhanging Small:** Quilts in this category must measure 160 or less perimeter inches.

**Wallhanging — Pictorial:** This category features any wall quilt that illustrates a recognizable image, such as objects, portraits, still life, wildlife, cityscapes, etc. Photorealism is not required: various degrees of abstraction are permitted as long as the original item(s) can still be identified. Quilts in this category may be any size suitable for hanging on a wall. Maximum size 360 perimeter inches.

**Wholecloth:** Entry must be a single piece of fabric or pieced fabric that is exactly the same. Techniques include, but not

limited to, meandering, background quilting, straight lines, feathers, etc., with the quilting as the dominant feature of the wholecloth. May be any style and include subtle embellishments. Surface design techniques may be used.

## Single Awards

*The following awards are single awards with prizes and/or prize money awarded to a single entry.*

**Best of Show:** The winner of this award is chosen from all first place winners.

### Best Machine Quilting, Stand-Up:

The entry must be quilted on a machine that rides on a carriage/frame system and classified as a longarm, midarm or shortarm. Includes domestic machines on a carriage/frame system. The machine must move over the quilt.

**Best Machine Quilting, Sit-Down:** The entry must be quilted on a domestic sewing machine or any fixed, stationary, table mounted machine with a large throat capacity. The quilt must move through the machine.

## Machine Quilting Competition Judging

We are often asked about the MQX Quilt Festival judging system and how it works. Every quilt is evaluated by all three Certified Judges. Each of the twelve line items on the judging form are awarded points out of a possible 10; with a maximum of 120 total points. Ribbons are awarded based on the highest scores. There is more emphasis put onto machine quilting (80 out of the 120 points). Thereafter, 40 points are for standard items. Comments are provided for each quilt. Wholecloth and Kids categories are not judged on piecing and construction. The entrant will receive a copy of the judging score by e-mail before the show concludes.



## Selected Awards

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*These awards are selected from all entries in all categories.*

**Best Appliqué:** Appliqué may be by hand or machine, sewn or fused.

**Best Scrap Quilt:** Entries may be any size and are clearly seen as scrappy, using many different fabrics. Placement may be random or planned.

**Best Use of Thread:** Thread work and/or thread painting that is effective and complementary to the quilting design. All types of threads are permitted.

**Embroidery At Its Best:** Entries may be any size and style with a recognizable amount of embroidery. Entrant may use hand, machine and/or computerized machine embroidery.

**Founders Award:** Janet-Lee and Mary will each choose their favorite quilt.

**Judge's Choice:** Scott Murkin, Karen Blocher, and Allison Rainboth will choose their favorite quilt.

**Photographer's Choice:** MQX Quilt Festival Photographer, Jeffrey Lomicka chooses his favorite quilt.

**Surface Design:** Entries may be any size or style in which surface design techniques have effectively changed the visual impact of the quilt surface. Foils, stencils, pencils, markers, paints, paint sticks or any other medium. Excludes thread painting and/or thread play.

**Viewer's Choice:** Chosen by popular vote and announced at the conclusion of the banquet on Friday evening, April 17.

## Competition Information & Guidelines

***Please read the categories and rules carefully*** to make sure your entry is in the proper category. ***Improperly categorized entries may be subject to disqualification.***

1. All entries must be machine quilted. Quilting may be done on any type of sewing or quilting machine.
2. Categories that have less than ten entries may be cancelled or combined with a similar category at the discretion of MQX Quilt Festivals.
3. Entries are submitted online at [www.MQXShow.com](http://www.MQXShow.com)—click on the Quilt Show tab for the Competition Information. Each entry incurs a \$25 entry fee. (\$10 for Challenge entries).
4. There is no limitation on the total number of entries by a single entrant (as entrant or machine quilter).
5. However, an entrant may not have more than one entry in a category.
5. Entries must have been completed after February 1, 2017.
6. Entries that are at least 75% quilted using a computerized quilting system must be entered into the Computerized Quilting category. *First time entrants in the Emerging Entrants category are exempt from this rule.*
7. MQX Quilt Festivals are juried competitions with the following category exceptions: Emerging Entrants and Kids Can Quilt!
8. The deadline for entries is February 1, 2020 at 11:59 pm. Jury acceptance letters will be emailed by February 20, 2020. ***Shipping instructions are issued with the jury acceptance letter.***



9. Odd shaped quilts must have a hanging system for proper display.
10. Quilts are hung at **96 inches** in height. For those that would prefer the quilt not rest on the carpet (Expo Center), hardwood floor (Armory), please add a second sleeve with the top of the sleeve at **92 inches**. Hanging sleeve **must be a minimum of 4" inches finished** to accommodate hanging pole.
11. Contact us if you need assistance in finding a suitable category for your quilt, 603.778.6994 or JanetLee@MQXShow.com.
12. Quilting is considered stitching that penetrates all layers of the quilt. A false backing, where some or all of the quilting is not visible from the back, is grounds for disqualification.
13. Entry should be close to completion at the time of entry. Previous withdrawals from any MQX Quilt Festival due to incomplete workmanship will result in requiring all future entries to be completed prior to submission.
14. MQX Quilt Festival's insurance liability is limited to \$500. By initializing the online entry form, you are agreeing to display your quilt with full knowledge and acceptance of this \$500 loss or damage payment while in the possession of MQX. MQX will do everything in its power to safeguard entries while in our possession. However, there is an inherent risk in shipping and that risk is often limited by the chosen carrier.
15. Transportation companies do not pay claims for quilt loss or damage without a certified appraisal. No matter what the value, consider having the quilt appraised and carrying your own insurance policy.
16. MQX Quilt Festivals awards all prizes and prize money to the entrant.
17. UPS is the preferred carrier for return shipping within the U.S. All international entries are returned by USPS.
18. Quilts juried into MQX Quilt Festival – New England must be available from approximately March 23 through April 27. Arrival accommodations may be made. Contact MQX to discuss alternate arrival options.
19. MQX strives to promote machine quilting for young quilters. Therefore, MQX will make the final decision whether a quilt's subject matter is suitable for viewers of all ages.

## Raffle Quilts

If your quilt guild or charity group has a quilt to raffle off, please contact us to schedule display space. The space, a table and two chairs, will be provided at no charge in exchange for four hours white glove time, per raffle quilt, per day. Days/times available are:

- Thursday, April 16 from 10–5
- Friday, April 17 from 10–5
- Saturday, April 18 from 10–4

Please contact MQX Quilt Festivals at: JanetLee@MQXShow.com or 603.778.6994 for additional information.