



PRESS RELEASE: 15 April 2019

Tickets for The Festival of Quilts now on sale

Tickets for The Festival of Quilts, the biggest patchwork and quilting event in Europe, go on sale today.

Attracting over 25,000 visitors from all over the world, Festival highlights for 2019 include: 800 hung competition quilts; 400+ workshops from leading quilting tutors (the most extensive workshop programme in the Festival's history); talks, lectures and demonstrations; a full social events programme, including The Quilters' Guild 40th Anniversary celebrations; and over 300 exhibitors offering essential supplies.

A major draw are the Festival's galleries which feature work by internationally-acclaimed artists and groups. Headline artists this year include US art quilter [Michael James](#) (*Constructed Textiles New and Recent*), Australian eco dyer [India Flint](#) (*incomplete journeys*), Hungarian textile artist [Eszter Bornemisza](#) (*You Are Here*) and British quilt artist [Karina Thompson](#) (*Pattern Within*), and there are galleries by [Aina Muze](#), [Heide Stoll-Weber](#), [Leah Higgins](#), [Sandra Meech](#), [Sandie Lush](#) and [Sara Cook](#). The International Quilt Study Center & Museum, Nebraska will be showing an exhibition of 19th Century Baltimore Album Quilts.

There are group exhibitions by: the [EQA](#), celebrating its 30th anniversary in *Threads Without Borders*; [The Quilters' Guild Collection](#) (*Celebrating Four Decades*); [Middle East Quilt Artists](#), featuring work by women in the region; [Natural Selection](#), a collection of artists from the US and Europe using ecologically sustainable plant based printing and dyeing processes; [Quilt Art](#), an artist group from the US and Europe, inspired by the work of quilt artist Mary Fogg; [The Quilters' Guild Group](#), inspired by The Bloomfield Coverlet from 1850; [SAQA](#), with a collection of abstract nightscapes, animal portraits, and other night time observations; [The Quilters' Guild Regions](#), with a '40' theme; and [The Russian Gallery](#), with work by Galina Krasnikova and Tatiana Sinitsyna.

At this year's highly-respected Festival competition, the Vlieseline Fine Art Textiles Award, a new international juried exhibition recognising the talents and skills of a broader community of textile artists, will replace the previous Fine Art Quilt Masters competition. There will also be two new awards recognising the skills associated with hand quilting and long arm quilting, and an updated definition for the Modern Quilt category. All competition entries must be submitted by 31st May 2019. Entry forms, category criteria, competition rules and key information are available on the [Quilt Competition](http://www.thefestivalofquilts.co.uk) page of The Festival of Quilts website (www.thefestivalofquilts.co.uk).

Flying in to the UK to present a daily Trunk Show at the Festival will be YouTube quilt star Jenny Doan from the Missouri Star Quilt Company. Jenny will be sharing quick and easy quilting tips and techniques to make many of the quilts featured in her tutorials. There will also be artists live at work in the Creative Textiles Studio, demonstrating mark making, screen printing, breakdown printing, paper lamination, eco printing and free piecing. In the Japanese Pavilion, a selection of handpicked suppliers from the International Great Quilt Festival in Tokyo will be showcasing hard-to-find fabrics and supplies in the UK for the first time, and in the Festival Theatre on Friday 2nd August, visitors can enjoy a catwalk show of wearable art from Russia. At the Lewis & Irene garden party, visitors are invited to view inspiring new fabrics while sipping a glass of bubbly.

Advance tickets for The Festival of Quilts 2019 are £16.50 (VIP tickets £42.00, concessions £15.00) with a wide selection of options available from www.thefestivalofquilts.co.uk or by calling 0844 858 6749. A £1.95 fulfilment fee applies per transaction.

www.thefestivalofquilts.co.uk

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About the Festival of Quilts

The Festival of Quilts is Europe's ultimate quilting destination, featuring extraordinary galleries from international artists and groups, 800 competition quilts, an extensive programme of talks and workshops, a full social events programme and over 300 exhibitors offering essential supplies. The Festival takes place

from 1st-4th August 2019 at the NEC Birmingham (Halls 7, 8 and 9). Opening times are 10am to 5.30pm daily (closes 5pm Sunday).