



PRESS RELEASE: January 2019

Two new overlay categories and a Modern Quilt update for The Festival of Quilts competition in 2019

The Festival of Quilts competition will introduce two brand new overlay awards for 2019 which will be open to entrants in any of the competition entries. A new definition for the Modern Quilt category is being introduced too.

The Festival's organisers, with the support of The Quilters' Guild, want to acknowledge the very different skills associated with both hand quilting and longarm quilting and there will be an additional prize of £500 for each of the new awards.

Entries quilted for any category on a specialist longarm quilting machine - where the machine moves and the fabric remains static, mounted on a frame - will be eligible for the new **Best use of Longarm** overlay award. Quilts stitched using standard domestic machines mounted on a frame will not be eligible.

Entries quilted by hand in any competition category will be eligible to enter the **Best use of Hand Quilting** overlay award. All quilting should be stitched by hand and winners must demonstrate mastery of the technique, with quilting in keeping with the overall design.

Anna Baptiste, Event Director for The Festival of Quilts, said: "We have responded to feedback from the quilting community and are introducing two new competition categories that recognise the different skills involved in work that is hand quilted versus that where a longarm quilting machine is used."

Changes have also been made to the entry criteria for the competition's Modern Quilt category. To reflect the rapid growth of the Modern quilt movement in recent years, entries will no longer be required to be functional. Wall-hanging entries will be acceptable as long as all other entry criteria are met. Quilts entered in the Modern Quilt category must be minimalist with clean, modern design and a strong visual impact. Modern Quilts often use asymmetry, improvisational piecing, a reinterpretation of traditional blocks or the

lack of a visible block structure. A feeling of space can be achieved by using negative space and they are machine or hand quilted in a way that is sympathetic to the design.

Competition entries must be submitted by 31st May 2019. Entry forms, category criteria, competition rules and key information are available on the [Quilt Competition](#) page of The Festival of Quilts website (www.thefestivalofquilts.co.uk).

The Festival of Quilts takes place at the NEC Birmingham from 1st-4th August 2019 and is Europe's ultimate quilting destination. The Festival attracts over 24,000 visitors from the UK and overseas. Highlights include professionally curated quilt galleries by leading international artists and groups, hundreds of workshops, an extensive programme of talks, discussions and social events and over 300 exhibitors selling essential quilting and textile supplies.

Tickets for The Festival of Quilts 2019 go on sale on Monday 8th April.

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For further information, please contact:

Julie Parmenter
Brampton PR
T: +44 (0)1981 251820 / +44 (0)7775 715936
E: jparmenter@hotmail.co.uk

Register for a press pass [here](#).

About the Festival of Quilts

The Festival of Quilts is Europe's ultimate quilting destination, featuring extraordinary galleries from international artists and groups, over 750 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).