



PRESS RELEASE: January 2019

The Festival of Quilts announces major re-brand for Fine Art Quilt Master competition

The organisers of The Festival of Quilts are to take the Fine Art Quilt Master category of its internationally acclaimed annual competition in an exciting new direction.

The Fine Art Quilt Master category has traditionally been a celebration of quilts that transcend craft and demand equal billing with gallery quality fine art works, attracting entries from quilt artists from all over the world. This year, and going forward, the category will become the broader Vlieseline Fine Art Textiles Award, an international juried exhibition open to all amateur and practising artists using textiles as their medium. The Award prize is £5,000 and the winning entry will be exhibited in a gallery at The Knitting & Stitching Shows in London and Harrogate in autumn 2019.

Anna Baptiste, Event Director for The Festival of Quilts, said: “There are many textile artists who are currently excluded from entering the Fine Art Quilt Master category because they don’t consider themselves to be quilters, even though they are creating multi-layered wall hangings. The new Fine Art Textile Award will recognise the creative talents and skills of a broader community of high-calibre artists and will celebrate textiles’ rightful place amongst high art.”

Work presented for the new Fine Art Textile Award must be considered as fine art and worthy of premium gallery space. It must transcend its craft or making process, standing alone as visual art and be rooted within the medium of textiles, with cloth and thread used as the pivotal materials/media. Entries must reflect the artist’s inspiration, source, concept or idea, with fully resolved composition.

Both 2D and 3D works are welcome with the exception of garments unless those garments present as fine art. All disciplines, processes and media are welcome as long as the key, pivotal materials are textiles. Processes might include but are not limited to hand and/or machine stitch, weaving, collage or piecing,

wrapping or binding, thread 'drawing', surface design, knitting and crochet. Elements such as dyes, discharge media, paint, paper, resin and wax can be incorporated.

Award entrants must submit two digital images of their work, an entry form and artist statement to quiltentry@upperstreetevents.co.uk by Friday 26th April and submit their entry by 17th May. Entry forms, competition rules and key information are available on the [Quilt Competition](#) pages of The Festival of Quilts website (www.thefestivalofquilts.co.uk). There is a non-refundable administrative fee of £25 per entry.

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 UK and international visitors. Highlights include professionally curated quilt galleries by leading international artists and groups, hundreds of workshops, an extensive talks and discussions programme, 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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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).