

# THE 2006 VERMONT QUILT FESTIVAL

## Contest Rules and Information

Yes, it's never too early to think about entering the contest! It's always exciting to see the variety and exquisite workmanship of the contest quilts each year! Please read the information on these sheets **carefully**. It explains the categories and judging process and outlines the procedures for entering a quilt in the contest. Also included are the rules for the Vermont Quilt Festival contest.

If you have any questions you can contact the contest chair Lorraine F. Hall at VQF 2006 Contest, 343 Brooke Meadow Road, Kensington, CT 06037 or E-mail: VQFcontest@hotmail.com

### CATEGORIES

We divide the quilt entries into six basic categories. Categories based on size are *Large Bed Quilts* (280" perimeter or larger), *Small Bed Quilts* (less than 280" perimeter), *Wall Hangings* (96" perimeter or larger), and *Miniatures* (125" or less perimeter). Bed quilts and wall hangings are also further delineated by technique. Two categories are based on age and experience. They are *Children's Quilts* (quilts made by children 17 or younger) and *Adult Beginner* (for beginning quilters 18 and older). Since an entry can be entered in only one category, please read the following information carefully to help with your decision.

Please check only **one** block on the entry form. If you have questions, please give me a call. ?

### **LARGE BED QUILTS** (280" perimeter or larger; designed to be used as a bed covering)

**Pieced** - includes those more than 50 percent pieced

**Appliqued** - includes those more than 50 percent appliqued

**Other Techniques** - includes any that do not fit into the pieced or appliqued categories, such as whole cloth, crazy quilt, etc; also includes any that are a combination of piecing, applique, and one or more other techniques so that less than 50 percent of the quilt is pieced or appliqued.

### **SMALL BED QUILTS** (smaller than 280" perimeter; designed to be used as a bed covering or throw)

Crib quilts, lap quilts, quilts for youth beds, and other small bed quilts are included in this category. These can be made by any technique.

### **WALL HANGINGS/WALL QUILTS** (Any size over minimum 96" perimeter; designed to be hung for decorative purposes)

**Pieced** - includes those more than 50 percent pieced

**Appliqued** - includes those more than 50 percent appliqued

**Other Techniques** - includes any that do not fit into the pieced or appliqued categories, such as whole cloth, crazy quilt, etc; also includes any that are a combination of piecing, applique, and one or more other techniques so that less than 50 percent of the quilt is pieced or appliqued.

### **MINIATURE QUILTS** (Any size under the maximum 125" perimeter).

These can be made by any technique. Keep in mind that a photo of a miniature should look like any sized quilt. If the proportions are not correct, it will be disqualified or placed in another category.

### **ADULT BEGINNER**

This category is to encourage beginning quilters age 18 and older to enter their work in the VQF contest. An entry in this category can be a first, second, or third project by a single individual (no group efforts). A project in this category can be a small or large bed quilt or a wall hanging of any size over the 96" perimeter minimum and made by any technique or combination of techniques. If your entry is a first, second, or third project, please enter it in the beginner category, even though it may fit in one of the other categories.

### **QUILTS BY CHILDREN**

This category is to encourage individuals or groups of quilters age 17 and younger to make quilts and to enter them in the VQF contest. Please indicate the age of the child (for judging purposes only) on the entry form and if this is a first, second, or later project.

## GROUP QUILTS

Although there is no separate category for group quilts (quilts made by two or more persons); we gladly accept such entries. Often the judges award a ribbon for the best group quilt. Please indicate on the entry form if the quilt or wall hanging is a group effort and how many there are in the group. Please give the name of the group on the front of the entry form in the space provided.

## OTHER INFORMATION

If we receive too few quilts in any category, we may eliminate that category and place the affected entries in another category. In addition, if we feel that an entry has not been entered in the appropriate category, we reserve the right to place it in another category. We may also create a new category.

Each quilt is judged on its own merits according to the point system outlined below, so the category in which it is entered does not affect whether it wins a ribbon or not. Ribbons are awarded on the basis of points received, so no category is guaranteed ribbon winners. By the same token, any one category may have several winners.

## JUDGING

**The VQF contest is not a juried show (i.e., quilts are not pre-judged or selected on the basis of the pictures you send in).** Quilts are accepted into the contest on the basis of postmark date. If your entry form is one of the first 40 Miniature Quilt Entries or one of the first 160 total for all other categories with the earliest postmarks, you will be notified that your quilt will be in the show. Entries are then hung, and judged prior to the opening of the Festival. Each judge evaluates all entries, scoring on the basis of the point system shown below and making a brief written critique. The final score for each entry is the average of the three judges' scores. Score sheets and critiques are returned to contestants with their quilts.

### POINT SYSTEM

#### Visual impact - 15 points maximum

#### Design - 40 points maximum

- 20 points - use of pattern and design
- 10 points - effectiveness of color in overall design
- 5 points - suitability of materials
- 5 points - border treatment

#### Workmanship - 45 points maximum

- 20 points - precision of work, top/back
- 20 points - quality of quilting and/or needlework
- 5 points - binding and/or edges

### AWARD CATEGORIES AND RIBBONS

- . **Exceptional merit**, 98-100 points, purple
- . **First**, 94-97 points, blue
- . **Second**, 90-93 points, red
- . **Third**, 85-89 points, yellow
- . **Best in Show**—entry with highest score from judging
- . **People's Choice**—entry with the most votes from visitors
- . **Judge's Choice**—personal favorite of each judge
- . **Governor's Award**—highest score by Vermont entry
- . **Best Quilt Outside the USA** – highest score by a foreign entry.
- . **Group Quilt(s)** --awarded at the option of judges
- . **Children's Award(s)** --awarded at the option of judges
- . **Beginner Award(s)** --awarded at the option of judges
- . **Fairfield Processing Corporation, Poly-fil® Award**—entry with the best hand quilting (judges' decision) Awarded to the quilter
- . **Gammill Long-Arm Machine Quilting Award** – best long-arm machine quilted quilt Awarded to the quilter
- . **Best Machine Quilting Award** – best machine quilted quilt not done on a long–arm quilting machine. Awarded to the quilter.
- . Other awards may be made at the option of the judges

## **PROCEDURES AND FEES**

### **MAILING CONTEST ENTRY FORMS**

The date you mail your entry form is **very** important. Please read the following information very carefully.

1. **Acceptance will be based on the postmark date**, rather than the date entries are received. If an entry is from the United States (including Alaska and Hawaii) or Canada, the earliest postmark date the entry can have is **MARCH 1, 2006**. Only entries from foreign countries other than Canada can mail the entry early to arrive by **MARCH 1**. Entries with postmark dates prior to March 1 from the U.S. and Canada will be returned.
2. Entries will be sorted by postmark date as they are received. Those from outside the U.S. and Canada arriving by March 1 will be included with those from the U.S. and Canada postmarked March 1. After a period of at least two weeks (to allow time for early postmarked entries from Alaska, Hawaii, and Canada to arrive), entries postmarked on each day will be counted. If fewer than 40 Miniature quilt entries and fewer than 160 total from all other categories are postmarked March 1, we will accept some (or all, if there is still space) postmarked the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and so on. In the event that more entries are postmarked on a certain day than can be accepted, we will randomly select the number needed to reach our total of 40 miniatures and 160 others from those eligible according to postmark date. **Please note that accepting entries on the basis of postmark date eliminates the need for sending your entry form by Express Mail.**

### **SELLING YOUR QUILT THROUGH VQF**

It is possible to sell your contest quilt through VQF. VQF charges a \$5.00 non-refundable fee on all sales items, plus a 15 % commission on any sale made. For items priced under \$100.00, the commission for VQF is 30 %.

### **ENTRY FEE**

The contest entry fee is \$15.00. Each contestant receives a written critique from each of the judges, free admission to the Judges' Panel question and answer session, free admission to the show for one day, and free admission for two to the Champagne Preview!

### **RETURNED CHECK FEE**

There is a \$25.00 fee for all checks that are returned because of insufficient funds.

## **VQF CONTEST RULES**

1. Quilts accepted for the contest will be limited to the first 40 entry forms for miniature quilts and the first 160 entry forms for larger quilts with **postmark dates** between March 1 and March 15, 2006 (inclusive).

Entrants from foreign countries (other than Canada) may mail entry forms to arrive by March 1. **Entry forms from the United States and Canada that are postmarked before March 1, 2006 will be returned.**

2. To give as many people as possible the opportunity to enter the contest, each individual or group may enter only one quilt. (You may enter two quilts if ONE is a miniature. Quilt ownership for entry purposes is based on who made the quilt top.)
3. A quilt may only be entered into the contest once. If it is added to or changed in some other way, it may still not be entered into the contest a second time.
4. Entries are limited to single quilts and hangings (i.e., one item); no clothing or pillows; nothing permanently framed or mounted.
5. Quilts or hangings made from kits (including store and catalog blocks of the month which include fabric packets) or "cheater cloth" are not permitted.
6. A quilt must have been constructed and quilted by the person(s) named on the entry form.
7. Tied quilts will **not** be accepted. This rule does not apply to quilts in the children's category.
8. If the quiltmaker(s) name(s) appear on the entry (either front or back), the name(s) must be completely covered. (Whipstitched muslin is fine as this is removed after judging is completed.)
9. Quilts entered in the miniature category must meet the criteria outlined in the contest information. Quilts in all other categories must have a perimeter of at least 96 inches (i.e., it must be at least 96 inches around the outside edge).
10. The quilt or hanging can have been started any time, but must have been **completed after March 15, 2005** (i.e., the quilt must have been finished within the year between last year's festival entry deadline and this year's festival's deadline). This is to meet our objective of showing only new work in the contest.
11. Quilts in the **miniature** category do **not** need to have a sleeve. All other quilts must be ready for hanging with a 5-6" wide sleeve attached to the back at the top. If the entry is other than square or rectangular, appropriate means of hanging/displaying the quilt or wall hanging on VQF racks must be provided. If there might be a question about how to hang properly, written instructions are a good idea.
12. The maximum insurance coverage by VQF is \$5000.00. If your quilt or hanging is valued at more than \$5000.00, you must provide the additional insurance. In case of quilt loss or injury, a quilt must have a certified appraisal or record of sales to document the insurance value.
13. If you are not selling your quilt through VQF your entry fee is \$15.00, American funds, payable to VQF.
14. If you are selling your quilt through VQF your fee is \$20.00 (\$15.00 entry fee plus \$5.00 sales fee), American funds payable to VQF. (VQF commission is 30% of selling price if price is \$100 or less and 15% if the selling price is over \$100).
15. The entry fee and sales fee are not refundable if you withdraw from the contest after your entry has been accepted. If your entry is not accepted, your check will be returned to you.
16. There is a \$25.00 fee for checks returned due to insufficient funds.
17. Your entry must be available for hanging, judging, and display from June 25 through July 2, 2006. We expect to receive all mailed quilts by June 24, 2006. Confirmation and information on getting your entry to and from VQF will be sent in May or hopefully earlier.
18. **No entry will be taken down before the end of the Festival.** Also, no entry will be returned to the owner until all contest entries and other quilts in the building have been taken down and are organized for return (about 1-½ hours after the Festival closes).

**If you have questions, please contact**  
**Lorraine F. Hall, VQF Contest 2006, 343 Brooke Meadow Road, Kensington, CT 06037**  
E-mail: VQFcontest@hotmail.com