



MASTER QUILTER PROGRAM MASTER QUILTERS GUILD

The National Quilting Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 12190 • Columbus, OH 43212-0190
614-488-8520 • nqaquilts@sbcglobal.net • www.nqaquilts.org

The National Quilting Association, Inc. established the Master Quilter Program to award formal recognition to individuals whose mastery of quilting skills is reflected in their masterpiece quilts. Recognition for a masterpiece quilt includes membership for the quiltmaker in the NQA Master Quilters Guild. Candidates submit their best work to a committee of five NQA Certified Judges for evaluation as a masterpiece quilt, defined as a work which reflects a consummate level of skill in quilting.

Quilts may be selected for masterpiece evaluation by application of the quiltmaker or by nomination by an NQA Certified Judge. Masterpiece evaluation takes place prior to the NQA Annual Quilt Show and quilts are exhibited during the Annual Show. The application fee is \$50 for NQA members and \$75 for non-members. There is no fee if the quilt is nominated for this honor by an NQA Certified Judge.

The quilt must have been completed within five years of the show date when it will be evaluated and the quiltmaker must be living at the time of the nomination. The quilt must measure a minimum of 25 square feet and may be any technique or combination of techniques. All workmanship must be solely that of an individual quiltmaker. This includes, but is not limited to, fabric selection, piecing, appliqué, marking, quilting, embellishing and finishing. Kits of any kind are not acceptable. Quilting may be by hand, machine, or both.

There is no distinction between amateur and professional, since the evaluation is not a competition. Applicants should have the quilt appraised and furnish a copy of the appraisal for NQA files. Reproduction quality 35mm slides, or digital photos on a CD (files saved in jpeg or tiff format, 300 dpi or better) of the front, back, and at least one detail are requested and may be used by NQA for educational purposes if the quilt is awarded Masterpiece status.

Quilts will not receive a numerical score, but applicants will receive a detailed report based on the criteria used to evaluate the quilt. Consensus of the five judges is required. A quilt which is not awarded Masterpiece status cannot be resubmitted.

Please send your completed paperwork to: Master Quilter Program Coordinator
The National Quilting Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 12190
Columbus, OH 43212-0190



The National Quilting Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 12190 • Columbus, OH 43212-0190
614-488-8520 • nqaquilts@sbcglobal.net • www.nqaquilts.org

MASTER QUILTER PROGRAM

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- To award formal recognition to members who have mastered the skills of quilting.
- To recognize quilts which exhibit a high degree of skill in workmanship and design.
- To define masterpiece qualities that quilters can use to evaluate their work.
- To encourage quilters to strive to improve their workmanship and design skills.
- To inform members and others of this honor given to a quilter.

REQUIREMENTS

- Quilter must be living at the time of the nomination.
- Quilt must have been completed in the last five years.
- Quilt must be quilted by hand, or by machine or both.
- Quilt must be a minimum of 25 square feet total.
- Quilt workmanship must be solely that of one individual. This includes, but is not limited to, fabric selection, piecing, appliqué, marking, quilting, embellishing and finishing.



The National Quilting Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 12190 • Columbus, Ohio 43212-0190

MASTER QUILTER PROGRAM CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

- Each quilt is judged while hanging and when laid on the judging table.
- Criteria for evaluation are used only when applicable for the style and technique of each individual quilt.

SOME examples of the criteria that are used to evaluate quilts for Masterpiece status:

Design

- Quilt has a unified integration of design elements, workmanship, and quilting factors.
- There is an equal, even-handed distribution of visual weight.
- Major design elements are scaled in relation to the overall size of the quilt.
- Repetition and/or rhythm enhance composition.
- Color and value choices create a mood for the overall effect.
- The background color and value enhance the main design.
- The set (whether block to block, diagonal, medallion, radiating, crystallographic, narrative, or pictorial) is used in a purposeful, successful way.
- Border design and fabric choices relate effectively to the body of the quilt in scale, proportion and style.
- The variety of fabric prints used enhances the overall design.
- Surface embellishments add interest and are an integrated part of the design.
- In pictorials, an effective focal point is achieved.
- In an art quilt, successful placement of line is apparent.
- Quilting design is sufficiently detailed to create a pleasing and complementary effect.
- Quilting design flows around the corners smoothly.
- Quilting design fills the space sufficiently and consistently.

Piecing

- Corners and points meet exactly.
- Curves are smooth and triangle points are sharp.
- Seams are free of visible stitching thread.
- Seam allowances are trimmed where necessary to prevent shadows.
- Surface is free of visible cutting and seam marking lines.
- Long seams are straight.
- Seam stitches are strong, close, and tight.
- Top, blocks, or units are free of distortion.
- Pieced joins of sashing and borders are unobtrusive.

Appliqué

- Grain of background blocks is a consistent direction.
- Light fabrics are free of shadows from darker fabrics underneath.
- Curves are smooth; points are sharp and lie flat.
- Background and pieces are free of marking.
- Stitching is unobtrusive unless decorative.
- Thread color matches unless decorative.
- Strong, small and close stitches hold applied pieces firmly.
- Identical pieces are uniformly shaped.
- With raw-edge appliqué, the raw edges are properly handled with the technique used effectively

Quilting

- Stitch length is consistent.
- Size of stitches is appropriate to fabric and batting.
- Straight stitch lines are straight and the curves are smooth.
- Beginnings and endings of stitching lines are inconspicuous.
- Stitch tension is controlled and consistent over the entire quilt.
- Quilt is free of visible markings.
- Surface fabric is free of distortion, shirring, puckers or pleats caused by the quilting stitches.
- Echo, grid, and/or parallel lines are evenly spaced.
- Ditch quilting stays in the ditch.
- Extra stuffing in stuffed work, trapunto, or corded areas feels soft and does not distort fabric.

Finishing

- Sizes of blocks, units, sashing and borders are accurate and consistent.
- Sashing and borders are cut and positioned in relation to fabric grain and/or fabric print.
- Corners of adjacent blocks/units are placed exactly opposite each other.
- Borders lie flat, free of ripples, puckers, or curves.

**MASTER QUILTER PROGRAM
QUILT NOMINATION FORM**

The National Quilting Association, Inc. • P.O. Box 12190 • Columbus, OH 43212-0190

Name of Quiltmaker _____

Address of Quiltmaker _____

City, State, and Zip Code _____

Telephone Number _____ E-mail _____

Name or pattern of quilt _____

Size: Width _____ inches x Length _____ inches

You may write on the back of this page if needed.

Describe the Quilt:

Is the design original? Yes No If yes, describe sources of inspiration. If no, explain.

Was any part of the work completed by others? This includes, but is not limited to, fabric selection, piecing, appliqué, marking, quilting, embellishing or finishing. Yes No If yes, please describe _____

Has the quilt been entered in competitions? Yes No

Has the quilt received any awards? Yes No If yes, please describe. _____

Has a picture of this quilt been published? Yes No If so, where? _____

Has the quilt been appraised? Yes No If yes, name appraiser and appraised value. _____

PHOTOS: Include slides, or digital photos on a CD (files saved in jpeg or tiff format, 300 dpi or better) of this quilt: front view, back view, and a close up to show details. Also, include a front view digital print or 35mm print for identification purposes.

QUILT NOMINATED BY: _____

FEE: For self nomination: NQA members -- \$50.00; Non-members -- \$75.00 Include check payable to: NQA.
No fee is charged when a quilt is nominated by an NQA Certified Judge.

REGULATION REMINDERS:

1. The quilt must have been made within the last five years and the quiltmaker must be living at the time of the nomination.
2. Quilts must be a minimum of 25 square feet and must be entirely the work of one person.
3. Kits of any kind are not acceptable.

RETURN THIS FORM, SLIDES OR DIGITAL PHOTOS, AND APPLICABLE FEE TO:
Master Quilter Program, National Quilting Association, P.O. Box 12190, Columbus, OH 43212-0190