

## **Suggestions for Photographing Your Quilt Entry**

Photographs submitted for stitched and bound will be used for the jury process, and for the catalogue if your quilt is selected for the exhibition. Hence it is important, not only for the jury process, but also for the catalogue, that your photograph is sharp, straight and the colour is true.

There are many articles on the web with hints on photographing textiles and it would be a good idea to read some of them. A few suggestions follow, for those with unsophisticated camera setups.

Start by reading the Photography section in the Conditions of Entry for stitched and bound, in order to make sure your photograph will comply with them, eg you might need to choose the highest resolution setting on your camera.

Select a place with even, soft light for the photograph. Outside in early morning light or on an overcast day (but not too dull) can be good. If photographing inside and the light is coming from behind you, for example through a window, shadows can be a problem so use side lights. If you want texture to be clearly evident in a photograph, side-lighting is necessary. Be careful to avoid colour casts, eg by photographing outside under a pergola with grey roofing, or photographing inside using lights that have a yellow glow.

Mount your work so it is stable, eg on a hanging rod or design board, or on a table for 3D objects. The background must contrast with your work and be plain.

Once the work is mounted, check for unwanted shadows, rays of light, threads, and bulges that can be smoothed.

Set up your camera on a tripod (to avoid blur) and position it so

- the photograph will almost fill the screen, without zooming
- the camera is at the height of the centre of the quilt
- the camera is in line with the centre of the quilt—don't photograph from the side.
- the sides of the quilt appear vertical in the viewfinder, and the top and bottom of the quilt appear horizontal

Not centring the camera results in distortion in the photograph.

Adjust the settings on your camera for the light, if you know how, otherwise use automatic settings. Do not use flash – flash can cause bright spots and a washed out look in the photograph.

Set the camera up for a delayed shot (this avoids blur from camera movement)

Take a few photographs then save them on your computer and check them.

- Check for colour. If slightly too dark, lightening slightly with the computer program can help. Or adjust the camera settings. If washed out or very dark, do the photography on another day.
- Check for unwanted shadows and unwanted bright spots - which could be due to the sun or artificial lighting.
- Check for straightness. Don't straighten with the computer program - take the photographs again.
- Zoom in on the photos to check for sharpness - take the photo again if at all blurred.
- Zoom in to check for unwanted blemishes (eg threads!) that can be physically removed.

When you have photographs you are happy with, save them again from the camera card onto the computer and keep these as originals and backup.

After taking the full shot, centre your camera on the centre of detail area, close enough so the area nearly fills the screen, then take a few photographs and check them on the computer.

*by Pat Forster*