

The Jury Process: stitched and bound 2017

The jury will comprise three people who work in the fields of textiles and/or art. The purpose of the jury process is to select quilts for the exhibition at Zig Zag Gallery, Kalamunda. There are no set criteria but, because of the 'contemporary, innovative, art quilt' nature of the exhibition, factors influencing the selection can be expected to be artistic merit, innovation in regards to quilts, satisfactory craftsmanship and a suitable display spot in the gallery for a work. An original design is a requirement.

Artistic merit is an elusive notion that will be conceived differently by different jurors, hence a team of three is involved. Attributes might be that the quilt tells a real-life / political / historical story that is apparent to the juror, and/or has shapes and colours that grab attention and lend movement to the design. Any story in the mind of the creator of the quilt needs to be captured in the title of the quilt and articulated in the artist statement.

Innovation might be in:

- the subject portrayed, or how the design portrays the subject
- the quilt structure eg. a tall thin work that can be hung from the rafters in Zig-Zag Gallery
- the making of the quilt (eg. use of vintage or non-traditional quilting fabrics, preparation of the background fabric, piecing /pleating/smoking/ used to good effect, inclusion of digital images, embellishment of the quilt-surface and edges)

Satisfactory craftsmanship rules out work that distracts the viewer away from the 'story' of the quilt. Unless they are intentional parts of the design, distractions could include the following,

- smudged printing
- seams that do not hold together
- puckers, sagging, non-square corners, uneven binding
- holes in the fabric (once I had to patch a hole that appeared when heat setting some paint!)

The gallery suits small to medium quilts hung on walls, large quilts (one-sided, multi-sided or transparent) hung from rafters in the ceiling for viewing at eye-level, and 3D works on plinths or hung from rafters. A suggestion is to visit the gallery before deciding the structure of your work. Quilt width must not exceed 200cm. 3D works on plinths must be contained within a square 40cm x 40cm.

Originality does not preclude the use of traditional quilt blocks or inspiration gained from art works of others. However, the work cannot merely be an adaption of someone else's design for example with different size, quilting or colours, or arrangement of components. In other words, it cannot be identified as, by and large, being a copy of someone else's design. Moral Rights Law requires sources of inspiration to be disclosed in the Artist Statement.

All the above may have put you off entering Stitched and Bound – don't be. Remember, simple designs can be powerful, as can designs driven by your feelings. Also the experience of entering a juried exhibition will drive your quilting forward.

Pat Forster, Co-convenor Stitched and Bound 2017