

# QUILT NATIONAL '25: The Best of Contemporary Quilts

Produced by The Dairy Barn Arts Center

## Prospectus and Official Rules and Entry Information

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Quilt National '25 is the twenty-fourth in the series of international juried exhibitions dedicated to promoting the contemporary quilt by serving as a showcase for NEW artwork (completed after September 8, 2022) that provides the viewer with an appreciation of the variety of techniques and innovative trends in the medium of layered and stitched fabric. The jurors will select artworks that represent unique approaches to the medium and demonstrate the breadth and variation of contemporary expressions.

### CALENDAR

MAY 1, 2024

Quilt National '25 opens for Submission

August 30, 2024

Deadline for submission of entry materials

OCTOBER 4, 2024

Notice of preliminary acceptance

NOVEMBER 8, 2024

Deadline for arrival of accepted artwork for final jury  
& photography

MAY 23–25, 2025

Opening Weekend Receptions & Awards Ceremony

MAY 24, 2025

Quilt National '25 opens to the public

MAY 24, 2025—SEPTEMBER 1, 2025

Exhibition is on view at The Dairy Barn Arts Center

SEPTEMBER 1, 2025

Exhibition closes at The Dairy Barn Arts Center and Quilt National '25 tours begin until  
October 2027

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### JUDGING CRITERIA

Artwork will be judged on originality, design, technique, and craftsmanship. Jurors will select no more than one artwork by an artist. Preliminary acceptance will be granted on the basis of the digital image submission. Final acceptance will be granted after a jurors' representative has examined the artwork itself, following the arrival of the artwork at The Dairy Barn Arts Center.

Approximately 80 artworks will be selected for display at The Dairy Barn Arts Center from May 23, 2025—September 1, 2025. The judging will be done by a “blind jury” process, meaning the jury members will be given no identifying information as to the artist's name, location, or any other personal identifying information.

### JURORS

These talented individuals possess a wealth of knowledge about contemporary textiles and fine art with decades of collective experience in the artistic, technical, and academic aspects of this exciting art form.

Jury:

Martha Sielman

Ellen Blalock

LUKE Haynes

### JUROR BIOGRAPHIES

**MARTHA SIELMAN** is the Executive Director of Studio Art Quilt Associates, Inc. (SAQA), a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing art quilting as a fine art medium. As SAQA's Executive Director, Martha has witnessed the explosive growth of art quilting, as well as growing interest in art quilts as a legitimate and collectible fine art medium. Over the past nineteen years of Sielman's leadership, SAQA's membership has grown to more than 4,400 members in 32 countries.

Sielman is the author of 10 books about art quilts, most recently publishing “Stitched Journeys with Birds: Inspiration to Let Your Creativity take Flight” (Schiffer 2023). She is also a co-author of “Art Quilts Unfolding: 50 Years of Innovation” (Schiffer 2018) and the editor for “Exploring Art Quilts with SAQA, volumes 1-3 (Schiffer 2020-2022). She is the sole author for “Masters: Art Quilts, Volumes 1 and 2” (Lark Books, 2008; 2011), “Art Quilt Portfolio: The Natural World,” “Art Quilt Portfolio: People and Portraits” (Lark 2012; 2013), and “Art Quilts International: Abstract & Geometric” (Schiffer 2016).

Sielman earned a bachelor's degree at Swarthmore College and a Master's Degree in Museum Education at Bank Street School of Education. She lives in Amston, Connecticut with her husband and two cats.

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**ELLEN BLALOCK** works in several mediums: quilting, photography, film/ video, drawing, and installation, as a narrative artist and documentarian.

“I am an artist with a mission. I believe my job is to be a conduit to listen and tell the stories of people that need to be heard and represented; the ones whose lives and experiences have been marginalized. I am interested in the African diaspora, particularly the African American experience in the United States.”

Originally from Philadelphia, PA, she currently lives in Syracuse, NY. She has a BFA from Temple University and an MFA from Syracuse University. She has taught Art History and Studio Arts at Syracuse University, Georgia Southern University, Georgia College & State University, SUNY Oswego, and Onondaga Community College.

Her art has been exhibited in several solo and group exhibitions, including: Gibbs Museum, Charleston, SC; Bundy Museum, Binghamton, NY; Schweinfurth Memorial Art Center, Auburn, NY; Natural History Museum, Los Angeles, CA; The African American Museum, Philadelphia, PA; and Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, NY.

After more than two decades, Blalock left her job as an award-winning multimedia journalist at New York Media Group (syracuse.com and The Post-Standard) to focus all her time on making art.

Blalock has received several awards, grants, fellowships and residencies, including the Light Work residency, Syracuse, NY; and SUNY Oswego's first artist-in-residence. She is currently the artist-in-residence at the Schweinfurth Art Center in Auburn which is supported by the Creatives Rebuild New York fellowship from the Andrew Mellon Foundation.

**LUKE HAYNES** is a recovering architect who has turned to textiles. His work has been shown across the globe and on his mother's fridge for years. He currently resides in Los Angeles, where he splits his time between cutting up fabric and watching hummingbirds fight over sugar water.

Subverting the traditional quilting form by integrating modern concepts, his art transforms the comfortably familiar into the visually evocative. Luke Haynes was born and raised across the American South. With formal training in art and architecture at Cooper Union, New York, Haynes continues to experiment with quilting art while exploring art and architecture across the globe.

A chance encounter with a box of fabric remnants sparked Mr. Haynes' imagination. His first quilt, measuring 7' x 10', led him through much experimentation and improvements over the years he has been quilting. Further honing his style, Mr. Haynes developed a system to piece manageable parts into a larger whole, applying a modern design sense to a familiar process. He uses reclaimed materials from the communities he works with in his projects to speak the textile language of the area.

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### AWARDS

Approximately 80 - 85 quilts will be juried into the exhibition, and the following awards will be given:

#### PURCHASE AWARDS

With the support of the James Foundation, the top winners will win purchase awards, and their quilts will be placed into the International Quilt Museum in Lincoln, Nebraska.

**Best of Show, \$7,500**

**Most Innovative Use of Material, \$5,000**

**Award of Excellence, \$5,000**

**Emerging Artist, \$2,500**

The purchase awards will be given on opening weekend, and the quilts will tour for two years and then be placed in the International Quilt Museum's Quilt National Collection for exhibition, study, and research. In the entry process, each artist will be asked if they want their quilts to be considered for the purchase awards.

#### CASH/TRAVEL AWARDS

These cash and travel awards, including the new Best International Artist Award, will be awarded to Quilt National '25 participating artists. During the submission process, artists will be asked to answer questions about their eligibility for these prizes.

**Best International Artist Award:** Any accepted artist who is neither a US citizen nor a US resident (i.e. does not live in the US) is eligible.

**Quilts Japan Prize:** Sponsored by the Japanese Handicrafts Association, this prize is granted to an American artist as an expression of gratitude for the teaching and guidance that American quilters have given to Japanese quilters. Recipients will travel and teach in Japan.

ALL OTHER AWARD INFORMATION WILL BE ADDED AS THEY ARE CONFIRMED. Many more awards will be announced!

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## RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

### QUILTS ARE DEFINED BY THE FOLLOWING

The artwork must possess the basic structural characteristics of a quilt.

It must be predominately fiber or fabric-like material and MUST be composed of at least two full and distinct layers – a face layer and a backing layer.

The face layer may be described by any or a combination of the following terms: pieced, appliquéd, whole cloth, or stitched/fused to a foundation.

The face and backing layers must be held together by hand or machine-made functional quilting stitches or other elements that pierce all layers and are distributed throughout the surface of the artwork.

At least some of these stitches or elements should be visible on the back of the artwork. As an alternative, the artwork may be a modular construction (an assemblage of smaller quilts.) Each individual module, however, must meet the above structural criteria.

### ELIGIBILITY

Any eligible quilt:

- Has not and will not appear prior to May 23, 2025, in any local, regional, national, or international exhibition, including but not limited to group, solo, curated, invitational, and juried exhibitions.
- Has not and will not appear prior to May 23, 2025, in a print publication that has national or international distribution; *this restriction includes SAQA publications.*
- Has no vertical or horizontal dimension of any single piece or group of pieces exceeding 100 inches (254 centimeters).
- Was completed after September 8, 2022.
- Has never been submitted to a previous Quilt National.
- Meets the structural requirements of a quilt as stated in the prospectus.
- Was not created in an instructional setting.
- Is not a copy or variation of another artist's artwork.
- Is created by independent effort, unless collaborator(s) is listed.
- Is completed and not a work in progress.

### AUTHORSHIP

All artwork must be the result of independent effort unless the artwork is a collaboration between multiple artists. If artwork is collaborative, all collaborators must be listed on the submission form. Collaborative pieces can only be submitted once, by one artist who represents and acknowledges all collaborators.

A collaborator is defined as a person who has artistic and/or intellectual say in the design and/or conception of this quilt.

Artwork cannot be created for, or the product of, an instructional setting in which another artist

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or teacher has provided guidance. The artwork must be an original design, not a copy or a variation, of the original design of another artist's artwork in any medium.

### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

It is important to note that AI may not be used as a replacement for individual creativity. Innovative use of AI may be used as long as it does not take away from the artistic integrity of the piece. AI should complement rather than overshadow the human touch, and ethical considerations should guide its application.

### DATE & PUBLIC EXHIBITION OF ARTWORK

All entries must be NEW artwork – completed on, or after, September 8, 2022. The recent modification of an older or previously dated artwork DOES NOT make the artwork eligible unless the artist can provide significant documentation of differences between the original and revised versions of the piece.

Failure to provide an accepted artwork for this exhibit will result in the artist's being ineligible for the following Quilt National competition. This policy ensures that exhibit space will be granted to artists who will, without doubt, make the artwork available for exhibition.

### ENTRY SUBMISSION

Submission of artwork to this competition by the artist shall constitute an agreement on the part of the artist to all the conditions set forth. This will also grant The Dairy Barn Arts Center the rights to reproduce and distribute the images through print and electronic media for promotion of the exhibition and entrants. Artists will retain all copyrights on their artwork.

The following information will be required on the entry form: Artist name, contact information, the title of artwork, completion date, dimensions of artwork (length, height, and width if three-dimensional, in inches), materials, techniques, and artist statement of 100 words or less. Submitters must list if the artwork is a collaboration, and the names of those who collaborated on this artwork. All submitters must confirm their award eligibility. When completing the entry form, the artist will have the opportunity to opt-out of receiving a purchase award.

### ENTRY FEE

A non-refundable entry fee of \$50.00 (fifty US dollars) will accompany the entry submission. This fee includes the entry fee and the online submission of the full view and detail images of up to three quilts. Each artist will pay the entry fee once to submit up to three artworks.

### ONLINE ENTRY SUBMISSION

Online submission will be accepted via a website link at [dairybarn.org](http://dairybarn.org) beginning May 1, 2024. The Dairy Barn website will be updated with further information and instructions regarding the specific entry submission platform process.

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### ENTRY IMAGES

Entries will be accepted in digital format only. Image quality is extremely important in determining acceptance into a juried art exhibition. Poor photography often leads to elimination. Each entry must include one overall image of the artwork and up to two detailed images. A third image may be submitted if the artwork is three-dimensional. Video pieces will be accepted. Please contact [exhibitions@dairybarn.org](mailto:exhibitions@dairybarn.org) if you have any questions about submitting video pieces.

All submission photos must be in focus, properly exposed with full depth of field and full range of contrast. No part of the artwork should be obscured by shadow. Backgrounds should be gray, black, white, or earth tones.

The artwork in the entry image should appear as you would wish it to be reproduced. This is VERY IMPORTANT as entry images will be used as reference to make sure photographic reproductions are positioned correctly.

Images must be of completed artwork, NOT ARTWORK IN PROGRESS.

The Dairy Barn Arts Center reserves the right to reject any artwork that is significantly different from the entry image.

### DIGITAL IMAGE FILE SPECIFICATIONS

*The following image specifications are subject to change pending approval of the submission platform.* File type: JPG. Be sure each file is a .JPG and carries the extension ".JPG".

Acceptable resolution is 170 dpi. Image should be sized no larger than 1800 pixels on the longest side. Maximum file size is 5 MB. Compression: .JPG high. Color Mode: RGB

### IMAGE FILE NAMING

FULL IMAGE: Title of Artwork\_heightxwidth(in inches).jpg

DETAIL IMAGE: Title of Artwork\_detail.jpg, and Title of Artwork\_detail2.jpg

EXAMPLE: For an artwork titled *Snow on Lake* that is 24x35 inches, the acceptable image file names are *Snow on Lake\_24x36.jpg*, *Snow on Lake\_detail1.jpg*, and *Snow on Lake\_detail2.jpg*.

Do not include any other information, such as your initials or the date in the image file name.

### DEADLINE

Submission must be received by August 30, 2024, at 11:59 pm Eastern.

### NOTIFICATION

Artists granted preliminary conditional acceptance will be notified within two weeks following the jury process.

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### INSURANCE

The Dairy Barn Arts Center cannot insure any artwork for an amount in excess of 65% of its fair market value and reserves the right to limit the amount of insurance coverage on a particular piece. In the event of loss or damage, it will be the artist's responsibility to provide documentation concerning the value of the artwork and the extent of the claim. Insurance values listed on the entry form will be in effect for as long as the artwork is part of the Quilt National '25 exhibit, including the tour.

### TOURING EXHIBITION

Selected artworks from Quilt National '25 will be available to circulate to host venues from September 2025 through October 2027. Decisions concerning the composition of the touring exhibit will be based, in part, on the availability and physical characteristics of the piece. Although participation in the touring exhibition is optional, it is expected that all award-winning artworks will be available to circulate for the full length of the tour.

### SALES

Artists whose artwork is not for sale (NFS) must write NFS and must list a valid insurance value in US dollars. Artwork identified on this form as FOR SALE (e.g. with an established retail price in US dollars) must maintain that status for as long as it is part of the active Quilt National '25 collection, which includes the 2-year tour.

In the event of a sale, the artist will be paid 65% of the retail price listed on this form. The Dairy Barn Arts Center will retain a 35% commission on artwork sold.

Should the artist decide to sell a FOR SALE artwork directly or through a third party after it has been accepted for exhibition, it will be assumed that the buyer has been influenced by the fact that it is part of Quilt National '25 (while on exhibition and tour). Therefore, The Dairy Barn Arts Center will be entitled to a fee of 15% of the retail price listed.

Please note that if the accepted artwork is sold to a Quilt National '25 visitor, the DBAC must be the only agent for the artwork while it is part of this exhibition.

Liability for all taxes associated with income from the sale of artwork, or from an award, is the sole responsibility of the artist. In the instance of sale or award, the artist must provide The Dairy Barn with appropriate personal information for tax reporting.

Should an accepted artwork be sold prior to the exhibition, it will be the artist's responsibility to guarantee that the new owner will make the artwork available for the May 23, 2025—September 1, 2025, to display at The Dairy Barn Arts Center.

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### SHIPPING

The artist is responsible for all costs relating to shipping and insurance of artwork while in transit to and from The Dairy Barn Arts Center. Artwork should be shipped in a substantial, reusable container. The Dairy Barn Arts Center will not be responsible for damage due to incorrect packing or an inadequate container.

All artwork will be handled with care and returned in the original packing material. The Dairy Barn Arts Center will not assume customs and/or brokerage charges. It is expected that an international artist will reimburse The Dairy Barn Arts Center for any charges thus incurred.

It is recommended that artists do not fold the artwork but rather ship the artwork rolled or flat, if appropriate.

**Quilt National '25 is committed to aiding international artists in managing the significant shipping costs associated with sending quilts abroad.** In line with this commitment, the organization is introducing shipping reimbursement scholarships designed to assist accepted international artists. Applications will be available in September. Please contact [Keri@dairybarn.org](mailto:Keri@dairybarn.org) for more information.

### QUESTIONS

Please direct questions to  
Keri Wolfe  
Quilt National and Exhibitions Director  
The Dairy Barn Arts Center  
740-592-4981  
[exhibitions@dairybarn.org](mailto:exhibitions@dairybarn.org)