

A POINT OF VIEW: JUDGING

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A competition can be a daring place to be. So - Why enter a judged show?? Why not??

Whether an exhibition, a competition, or even a guild meeting 'show and tell', viewers will comment, critique, praise and learn from the opportunity to view quilts and quilted textiles. The comments at the Guild 'show and tell' prepare us for the comments of the quilt community and the community at large.

A judged show offers the quilt maker and the viewer the opportunity to get the opinion of people (judges) who are selected and recognized for their ability to evaluate technique, line, design, use of color (value placement), good quilting (machine or hand), and who have a sense of fair play.

The show giving organization should be clear about the categories long before judging and make sure that the judge(s) are aware of the categories, size constraints, number of ribbons and/or awards and special awards. The standard of the show is up to the show giving organization. The more specific the organization is the better the atmosphere for judging will be, affording the entrant and the judge(s) time to concentrate on the piece(s) before them.

Having been apprised of all the judging criteria, judge(s) may either judge a hanging show or judge before pieces are hung. Artists' statements should be short and are not necessary to the judging process unless the show has a theme that is to be interpreted through the piece. The show committee determines whether they expect comments from the judge(s). These comments should be short and be constructive for the entrant.

Pieces can be judged against all others in the category or can be judged on their own merit using a point scale. The latter affords each quilt a fairer chance, in my opinion, and does not compare apples to oranges. The point system can also allow for more ribbons in any class; i.e.

100-98	First
97-95	Second
94-92	Third
91-89	Honorable Mention

Of course the show committee determines the point value for the awards, mine is an example. I feel that the more people are awarded promotes quilt making and shows.

The other style of judging gives pieces word places; i.e.

Excellent	First
Very Good	Second
Good	Third
Fair	Honorable

Judging score sheets may be provided by the show committee or by the judges (this is determined in advance).

All submitted pieces should be "judging" ready: in pristine shape, i.e. no marks, hair, lint, etc.

All pieces should be sleeved in compliance with the show rules.

A competition can be a daring place to be; it stimulates all who have entered and all those who are fortunate enough to view the craft and art of quilt making in every expression of excellence and passion today...alive and well.