SEW AWARENESS 23rd South African National Quilt Festival - 2026

QUILT COMPETITION CATEGORIES

Please read the **"Competition Rules and Conditions"** in conjunction with the **"Categories"** to understand all the requirements when completing the Entry Form.

All quilts/ items entered in the SA National Quilt Competition are judged by a panel of SAQG Accredited Quilt Judges.

1. Traditional Large – Standard

A quilt made using traditional and/or contemporary techniques that draw on the traditions of quilt making.

- Made by one person.
- Your own design, or a design derived from using elements from the public domain.
- No side longer than 240cm.
- Pieced or appliquéd, or made with a combination of both.
- Made utilizing techniques that are traditional and/or contemporary. Traditional quilting techniques such as Kawandi, Kantha, Boro and Sashiko and non-quilted traditional techniques such as Crazy Patch, Yoyos, Cathedral Window and Mola are acceptable.
- Hand or machine quilted, or a combination of both.

Code: TLS = Traditional Large Standard

2. Traditional Medium/Small - Standard

A quilt made using traditional and/or contemporary techniques that draw on the traditions of quilt making.

- Made by one person.
- Your own design, or a design derived from using elements from the public domain.
- No side longer than 200cm.
- Pieced or appliquéd, or made with a combination of both.
- Made utilizing techniques that are traditional and/or contemporary. Traditional quilting techniques such as Kawandi, Kantha, Boro and Sashiko and non-quilted traditional techniques such as Crazy Patch, Yoyos, Cathedral Window and Mola are acceptable.
- Hand or machine quilted, or a combination of both.

Code: TMS = Traditional Medium/Small Standard

3. Art Pictorial – Standard
A quilt that is a depiction/representation of persons, places and/or things.
- Made by one person.
- Your own design, or a design derived from using elements from the public domain.
- No side longer than 200cm.
- Any technique can be used.
- Quilts that are made primarily of fibre/cloth and any other materials/media can be included.
- Some stitching must be evident through the three layers.

Code: APS = Art Pictorial Standard

4. Art Abstract – Standard
A quilt that is abstract and/or conceptual in nature, meaning non-realistic, and not depicting specific persons, places and/or things.
- Made by one person.
- Your own design, or a design derived from using elements from the public domain.
- No side longer than 200cm.
- Any technique can be used.
- Quilts that are made primarily of fibre/cloth and any other materials/media can be included.
- Some stitching must be evident through the three layers.

Code: AAS = Art Abstract Standard

5. Traditional – Masters
A quilt made using traditional and/or contemporary techniques that draw on the traditions of quilt making.
- Made by one Master quilter.
- Your own design, or a design derived from using elements from the public domain.
- No side longer than 240cm.
- Pieced or appliquéd, or made with a combination of both.
- Made using traditional and/or contemporary techniques. Traditional quilting techniques such as Kawandi, Kantha, Boro and Sashiko and non-quilted traditional techniques such as Crazy Patch, Yoyos, Cathedral Window and Mola are acceptable.
- Hand or machine quilted, or a combination of both.

Code: TM = Traditional Masters

6. Art – Masters
The composition of the quilt can be pictorial, abstract and/or conceptual in nature.
- Made by one Master quilter.
- Your own design, or a design derived from using elements from the public domain.
- No side longer than 200cm.
- Any technique can be used.
- Quilts that are made primarily of fibre/cloth and any other materials/media can be included.
- Some stitching must be evident through the three layers.

Code: AM = Art Masters

7. Open Large - Standard and Master Quilters
This category allows for the use of one or more of the following:
- made using a published/commercial pattern, or
- made using computer-digitized quilting, or
- made using machine embroidery patterns, or

▪ has been started in a class, or

▪ be a replica (duplicate copy) of an original artistic work.

- Referring to the above points, **ALL** design credits must be given.
- In the case of a published/commercial pattern, an A4 colour photocopy must also be included with the quilt entry.
- Made by one person.
- No side longer than 240cm.
- Any technique can be used.
- Hand or machine quilted, or a combination of both.

Code: OL = Open Large

8. **Open Medium/Small – Standard and Master Quilters**

This category allows for the use of one or more of the following:

▪ made using a published/commercial pattern or

▪ made using computer-digitized quilting or

▪ made using machine embroidery patterns or

▪ have been started in a class or

▪ be a replica (duplicate copy) of an original artistic work.

- Referring to the above, **ALL** credits must be given.
- In the case of a published/commercial pattern, an A4 colour photocopy must also be included with the quilt entry.
- Made by one person.
- No side longer than 200cm.
- Any technique can be used.
- Hand or machine quilted or a combination of both.

Code: OMS = Open Medium/Small

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9. **Collaborative – Standard and Master Quilters**

A quilt that is constructed and completed by up to four (4) individuals.

- No side longer than 240cm.
- Any technique can be used.
- The individuals can use
  o their own design, or a design derived from using elements from the public domain, or
  o a published/commercial pattern.
     Design credits *must be given* and the quilt entry must also be accompanied by an A4 colour photocopy of the design/pattern.

Code: COL = Collaborative

10. **Modern – Standard and Master Quilters**

A Modern quilt incorporates the innovative use of design, colour, space, piecing and stitching. These aspects/features are emphasized or minimalized and are presented in a contemporary way.

- Made by one person.
- No side longer than 240cm.
- Your own design, or a design derived from using elements from the public domain.
- The general accepted features/attributes of the Modern quilt genre should be evident.

Code: MOD = Modern

11. Youth - Standard
Age up to 18 years (as at 1ˢᵗ January in the year of NQF competition)
- Made by one person.
- No side longer than 240cm.
- Any technique can be used.
- All work done on the quilt must be entirely the entrant's own work.
- Quilt can be
  - your own design, or
  - a design derived from using elements from the public domain, or
  - a published/commercial pattern. Design credits *must be given* and the quilt entry must also be accompanied by an A4 colour photocopy of the design/pattern.
- The name and details of the mentor, if any, must be stated on the entry form.

Code: YTH = Youth

12. Group – Standard and Master Quilters
A quilt that is made by 5 or more actively involved members belonging to the same Guild/Group.
- No side longer than 240cm.
- Any technique can be used.
- A Group quilt must be a design of one or more of the group members, or a design derived from using elements from the public domain.

Code: GRP = Group

13. Theme "SEW AWARENESS" – Standard and Master Quilters
An item celebrating quilting and/or textile art as a medium for promoting environmental awareness.
- Made by one person.
- No side longer than 100 cm.
- Any technique can be used.
- Made using the colours of the Sew Awareness Logo, but *must also include* some turquoise and blues.
- Made primarily of fibre/cloth and any other materials/media can be included.
- Some stitching must be evident through the three layers.
- It may not be a 3D item.

Code: THE = Theme

14. 3-Dimensional Items – Standard and Master Quilters
The entry must have length, width and depth to be 3-dimensional.
- Made by one person.
- If not all, at least 50% must be quilted through at least two (2) layers.
- Any technique can be used.
- For display purposes, the item/s must be free-standing and self-supporting.
- The maximum dimensions on the height, the width, or the depth may not exceed 120 cm.
- It must be easily transportable and not exceed 10 kgs in weight.
- The Festival organizers will take every precaution in handling your work but will in no way be held responsible for any mishap or damage to your item whilst it is in their care.

Code: 3DI = 3 Dimensional Items