

## Definition of an Art Quilt

An art quilt is an original exploration of a concept or idea rather than the handing down of a “pattern”. Work can be “inspired by” something but should not be a copy.

Below are a few guidelines to help elaborate on the above definition. These guidelines will be used by those assessing quilts in the quilt show to help determine the quilts are in the correct division. The quilt must also possess 3 layers stitched together.

- There are 2 parts in an art quilt – art and quilt. (Kathleen Loomis, “Art with a Needle”)
- Cheater cloths (panels) are not allowed. Motifs taken from commercial cloths and used as elements would usually be considered part of an art quilt.
- Patterns that are someone else’s pattern that you purchased are not an art quilt. Replacing your fabric for a sample on the pattern does not make it an art quilt.
- Photos that are your own worked into fiber would be original.
- Altered works may or may not be considered an art quilt. For example, if you used someone else’s quilt for a background, this would be using ‘altered’ works. You are not using the original work as an art quilt, but are using it as an element in your design.
- It cannot be a copy; it needs to be more than decorating someone else’s design.
- It cannot be a ‘spoof’ – such as adding a mustache on the “Mona Lisa” or substituting something for the pitchfork in the American Gothic picture.

### *Sources:*

The Art Quilt Association (AQuA), Grand Junction, CO)

Studio Art Quilt Association, Inc (SAQA)

“Art with a Needle”, Kathleen Loomis