Quilt Categories

Traditional	Modern	Contemporary	Art Quilts
Type of quilts made by your grandmother of the style generally made before the 1970s	Originated in early 2000s	Originated in late 1900s; difficult to define but middle ground between modern and traditional	Origins in early 1970s
Functional (usually used on a bed)	Generally functional, utility	Generally functional	Decorative (usually displayed on a wall)
Use repeating blocks, floral applique and historically-used patterns.	Use improvisational piecing, minimalist design	Generally use traditional blocks but feature unusual color combinations. Complex piecing (e.g. paper piecing)	Completely original. May be pictorial or color studies
Rows of uniform blocks, often with sashing strips and a border in a classic layout. Also medallion, whole cloth, crazy.	Less repetition, non-traditional block placement, asymmetry,	Generally use traditional layouts	No specific layout
Use a variety of fabrics that don't match exactly. (Often made from scraps in a time before the proliferation of quilt shops)	On-trend colors Often use white and gray Solids and bold prints are popular.	Bright, saturated hues, often contrasted with black. Batiks are popular. May use embellishments.	Highly embellished (may use paint or other mixed media)
Quilting designs often symmetrical and repetitive with thread color blending in to create a unified look. Use stitch-in-the-ditch, outline quilting, crosshatching, grids, feathers.	Quilting design has minimalist look. May be graphic geometric shapes, straight lines, repeating curves, shapes. May have intense background fills, elaborate thread play and heavy texture.	Quilting design often edge-to- edge, pantograph.	Quilting designs mimic the art. May have elaborated thread play and heavy texture.
Strict adherence to rules. Precision and orderliness.	Create own rules	Generally follow rules.	No rules

Primarily from Fons & Porter's Love of Quilting Jan/Feb 2013 and Mar/Apr 2013