

A ROADMAP FOR MAKING BETTER QUILTS

We know you've worked really hard on your quilts this year. At last, the Tucson Quilt Fiesta! is almost here! Over the past months, we've talked about the qualities that make a show quilt successful. We've discussed the important aspects of design and workmanship. What follows below is the evaluation form used by our professional judges as they examine the entries in the judged categories. The Guild has developed this critique sheet for two reasons: to standardize the judging process and to better inform the quiltmakers. A completed evaluation will be returned with each judged entry at the end of the quilt show. If you've had a quilt judged in the past, you may know what to expect. If you have not, let's go through the form now, so that you will be prepared to get the most information out of it and the most benefit from it. If you want to make better quilts in the future, the judges' comments can provide you with a roadmap.

The judges have about four minutes to study and comment on each quilt. To save time, volunteer scribes assist the judges by transferring their verbal critique into written form for each quilter. Take a look at the sheet below: you'll notice that your name does not appear on it...just the entry number. That is a deliberate step to protect your anonymity during the judging process.

You can see that the form is divided into two main categories: these address the judges' overall impression of your entry: APPEARANCE AND DESIGN and also the specific aspects of construction involved: WORKMANSHIP. To make maximum use of the allotted time, the judges agree on a 'score' for up to ten different aspects of each quilt. These include factors we have already discussed such as Visual Impact, Piecing and/or Applique, Borders, Quilting, and Finishing.

Possible ratings include EXCELLENT (you can really treasure these marks as very few are given out), VERY GOOD (which indicates proficiency in the technique), ACCEPTABLE (suggesting that you might improve your skills in this area) and FAIR (indicating that this aspect of workmanship really needs more attention). To elaborate on the 'grade' given, and to provide the quiltmaker with more helpful and specific feedback, the judges are asked to indicate specific areas that are very successful (these are underlined) and specific areas which need improvement (these are circled).

The judges also remark upon the "best feature" of each quilt. Some of their comments may surprise you and some you may have expected, but all the information on the critique form is designed to help you be a better quilter. Please, take the judges comments in the spirit in which they are given. We appreciate the effort you have put into your quilting and we're grateful that you decided to put your work on display for others to see. You really never know who your handiwork might inspire and delight...thank you SO MUCH for sharing.

(SAMPLE)

TUCSON QUILTERS GUILD
Quilt Evaluation Form

Entry Number:

Category:

Title:

Prize Awarded:

2011 Judges: Chris Brown, Sally Hatfield

APPEARANCE AND DESIGN	E	VG	A	F	Comments
1. Visual Impact: Line, shape, color, texture and value effectively used to produce an interesting, balanced, and well-proportioned design.					
1. Quilting Pattern: Complements the top design, fills the spaces well.					
1. General Appearance: Neat and clean; no visible markings, lint, soil, pet hair, odor, or stains; no obvious distortion or sewing problems.					
WORKMANSHIP					
1. Piecing: Precise general construction; corners and points match; stitches do not show; thread color is appropriate.					
1. Appliqué: Securely attached without puckers; curves are smooth and points are sharp.					
1. Quilting: Stitches are even and consistent front and back; hand stitching shows no visible knots; machine stitching stops and starts are not obvious; tension is well balanced.					
1. Amount of Quilting: Sufficient and appropriate for design of top and batting type; consistency maintained throughout.					
1. Borders: Construction well executed with straight seams; no ripples, puckers, or stretching; corners precise.					
1. Finishing: Binding is well executed and consistent in width; stitching is secure; corners are square; edges are straight; batting extends to edge.					
1. Special Techniques: (Embroidery, tying, embellishments, beading, overlays, trapunto, photos, etc.) is secure, neat, and effectively executed.					

E = Excellent, VG = Very Good, A = Acceptable, F = Fair

Within the comments:

An underlined item = excellent

A circled item = needs improvement.

The best feature of this quilt is: _____
