



Carrefour
European
Quilt Show

Press kit



www.patchwork-europe.eu

@carrefour_patchwork



Quilts, small towns, and stories, since 1995

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What is patchwork ? What is a quilt?

Limitless creative expression: at its core, **patchwork is the art of stitching together different pieces of fabric**. Mending a ripped pair of jeans? That's patchwork! A **quilt** takes **patchwork** to the next level by adding batting for warmth and texture, along with a backing fabric, binding all three layers — the top, the batting, and the backing — into one cohesive piece.

Quilts evolve with people, and today, we see a wide range of styles — from traditional bedspreads, which can require over 1,000 hours of meticulous work, to contemporary minimalist creations where design takes precedence over stitching.

Whether it's modern, old-school, or a blend of both (mixed media combines fabrics and other materials to create strikingly contemporary works that are never

intended for a bed), **patchwork surprises, moves, and captivates**. Far more than a traditional craft, it has become a true artistic language in its own right: narrative, bold, abstract, or monumental — through fabric, artists from all walks of life weave connections, tell stories, and challenge the world around them.

Each year, the towns of Val d'Argent -a picturesque valley in the French region of Alsace- along with countless artists and international visitors, pay tribute to this profoundly human art form — both rooted in tradition and boldly creative.



A celebration of vibrant colors and captivating textures

Since its debut in 1995, the **Carrefour - The European Quilt Show** has carried a powerful story: one of an artform that unites people, a heritage that is passed down, and a passion that continually reinvents itself.

Thirty years later, **Carrefour has become a vital force on the global textile stage**— a thriving space for sharing, inspiration, and creation driven by a team of event professionals and supported by a dynamic, multidisciplinary network of associations.

Nestled in the heart of the enchanting Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines valley — a region brimming with history, craftsmanship, and character — the **Carrefour - The European Quilt Show has become Europe's largest gathering for textile art lovers**.



A living art form, far from the clichés

Here, fabric becomes a universal language. Whether shaped by the hands of a grandmother or the bold vision of a contemporary artist, patchwork resonates with everyone. It's inclusive, expressive, and timeless — bridging generations, classes, and cultures. It unites, connects, and brings everyone together: **more than just bedspreads, modern patchwork creations have now found their place on walls!** Welcome to this vibrant, intergenerational celebration — a world of threads where every fabric tells a story, every stitch connects cultures, and every creation becomes a bridge between past and future.

Spotlight on 2025 — A very special show

Thirty years of dedication have transformed Carrefour into the largest gathering of internationally acclaimed artists, with over 1.100 quilts and textile artworks every year.

In **September 2025**, we're celebrating the **30th anniversary of Carrefour - The European Quilt Show!** Expect exclusive exhibitions by international artists, exciting workshops and retreats, engaging talks, and a vendor area brimming with the latest trends.

Artistic Program

This year's lineup brings together **38 artists** representing **31 countries**.

They come from far and wide — Australia, Canada, South Korea, the United States, France, Germany, Italy, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Russia, Switzerland, Brazil, and more.



A Trip to the Southern Hemisphere — Spotlight on Australia & New Zealand

This anniversary show shines a spotlight on Australia and New Zealand — regions of striking contrasts and deep-rooted heritage, where natural dyes, modern fabrics, and ancestral stories come to life through needlework. Bridging tradition and contemporary expression, the featured artists present a patchwork vision that is both evocative and distinctly modern.

[Discover all 38 exhibitions](#)

patchwork-europe.eu > admire > exhibitions



Caroline Simm

An International Contest that celebrates Boldness



In September, Carrefour visitors will get a first look at the International Competition exhibition, showcasing 30 quilts juried from submissions worldwide. **The awards ceremony, open to the public, will take place on Friday, September 19, at 2:30 PM at the Pavillon Osmont in Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines,** honouring the most impactful works.

Each year, a new theme inspires quilters, who have several months to create their pieces before the jury selection in the spring. After debuting at Carrefour, these quilts will continue their journey,

exhibited in galleries, museums, and international events: a quilt world tour!

This year, discover Avant-Garde, a remarkable exhibition of 30 works selected by judges **Shin-hee Chin** (South Korea & USA), **Libs Elliott** (Canada), and **Scott Culley** (USA). This bold collection showcases the cutting edge of contemporary patchwork, both in subject and medium. The textile revolution is underway — patchwork is now recognized as a visual art, and creativity reigns supreme.

Discover the Avant-garde contest

patchwork-europe.eu > the contest > international contest 2025

2025's 30 finalists

Szilvia KERÉKGYÁRTÓ (HU)
Sylvie RUAMPS (FR)
Sangmi KIM (KR)
Miranda RENARD (ES)
Marie-Hélène QUENTIN (FR)
Mattea JURIN (IT)
Monica FLAKE (DE)
Eunjoo AN (KR)
Maria Eugenia CORBELLÀ (ES)
Olga STANG (DE)
Sandrine OSTERMANN (FR)
Yongjeong KIM (KR)
Tania TANTI (AU)
Sophie ZAUGG (CH)
Edith BIERI-HANSELMANN (CH)

Haeyiung HONG (KR)
Okki AHN (KR)
Aeran KIM (KR)
Irina MAYUKOVA (FI)
Jongkyeong LEE (KR)
Sandra KAISER (DE)
Marijke VAN LAMOEN (NL)
Yangmi KIM (KR)
Geumja LEE (KR)
Marta Morán Poza (ES)
Kyung-a KIM (KR)
Betty BUSBY (US)
Jieun MAENG (KR)
Rossana RAMANI (IT)
Jana BOUKOVA (ES)



Monika Flake, Sequences



2025 Workshops

Coming to Carrefour is an opportunity to **marvel at stunning works, discover artists, connect with vendors**, indulge yourself, and meet new people — but it's also a chance to **LEARN** and leave with dozens of new ideas!

Attending the workshops means **taking time to explore new techniques**, unlock your creative projects, meet inspiring individuals, and spark your creative curiosity.

For the 34 workshop instructors -from all four corners of the Earth- **it's all about sharing everything they know with the students.**

Discover the programme and book a workshop –classes are available for beginners, advanced and expert quilters.

patchwork-europe.eu > learn > workshop



A challenge for young quilters

For the **30th anniversary** of the show, **we invite budding artists and young talents to participate in the “HEROES” Competition**, drawing inspiration from the **people and characters they admire — whether on screen or in real life.**



The challenge is to create a patchwork — a work composed of various pieces of fabric — that illustrates the theme of heroes. Think of everyday heroes, cartoon characters, vibrant colors, and comic book art to spark your creativity!

The contest is open to all between 5 and 25 years old, which are then divided into several age groups.

It is supported by institutions such as the Quilters Guild of the British Isles, Patchwork Gilde Deutschland, the German guild, France Patchwork, the French guild, as well as blogger Katell Renon, quilt collector Janet O'Dell, quiltmakers Alicia Merrett, Merrill Tanton and Claire Chalcraft.

2025 Retreats

Each year, it's the must-attend **post-Carrefour event!**

Quilters eager to learn new techniques gather for **four days** with a featured artist. It's a dream stay — small groups, hands-on learning, and an unforgettable atmosphere!

The magic of textile dye

Cecilia Koppmann (Buenos Aires, Argentina) is ready to roll up her sleeves, don her gloves, and dive into her favorite activity: **dyeing!** Creating the perfect shades for her upcoming works, she shares her secrets — the result of decades of experience — over four days of retreats, promising a setting that's as playful as it is educational.

The Art of the Whizz Bang! Technique

Join **Rachael Daisy Dodd** (Melbourne, Australia) for four days of immersive retreats where you'll master this playful technique with spectacular results, **adding texture to your quilts, bags, and garments.** We're thrilled to welcome this icon of Australian patchwork to the Carrefour — don't miss the chance to meet her and soak up her invaluable advice!



Lectures



[Discover the lectures program](#)

patchwork-europe.eu > learn > conferences

The lecture schedule is packed with fascinating presenters and great talks, in French, English or German.

They're a way to relax from a long day walking the exhibit floors and engage in a conversation with artists and experts.

Lecture topics range from quilt history to focuses on techniques or quilters' life stories.

Visit the website to discover the full lecture programme!

Val d'Argent, the birthplace of the Amish community

Turning back the clock:

We're back in the **16th century**. The Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines valley, now known as **Val d'Argent** (which would translate into the Silver Valley), **is politically divided into two halves — one belonging to the Lorraine duke, the other to the Alsatian lord** — with the border defined by a river that flows through the town.

While the Lorraine side remains French-speaking and

Catholic, the Alsatian side turns Protestant along with its rulers — the powerful Ribeaupierre lordship.

Threatened and then persecuted in their native Switzerland, **several waves of Mennonite Anabaptists** (pacifist Protestants) **find refuge in Val d'Argent**, which at the time was seeking to repopulate its villages after the decline of mining activities.



Drawn by the region's unique religious tolerance and fertile lands, **the Mennonite congregation integrates into the local population**, sometimes setting aside their agricultural traditions for urban employment.

In **1693**, a discontented voice calls for a **return to a simple, isolated life** — that of Swiss preacher **Jakob**, who **establishes the first Amish community in the hills above Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines**. According to his beliefs, the Christian congregation was to live according to principles drawn from the Bible, as understood and

practiced by the early pastors of the assemblies.

This Christian community, identified as the «Amish,» resembles more a religious order than a conventional church, characterized by its active and voluntary practice of mutual aid and discipline, setting it apart fundamentally from other churches.

During the **French Revolution**, the introduction of mandatory military service **prompted the Amish** — staunch pacifists — **to emigrate to the New World**. Those who remained in Europe

gradually merged with the more progressive Mennonite movement, a trend that continues to this day.

Nevertheless, **the Amish movement**, now firmly established in Pennsylvania and other regions of North America, **was born from the teachings of Jacob Amman during his time in Alsace, specifically in Val d'Argent**.

Origins of the Show

Carrefour - The European Quilt Show was born from a desire to return to its roots during the 300th anniversary celebrations of the Amish movement organized by the French Association of Anabaptist and Mennonite History (AFHAM) in 1993. The first quilts displayed in Val d'Argent were hung as decorations on the walls of the Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines Theatre, where the anniversary symposium of the Amish movement was held

that year. These patchwork quilts were Amish creations brought from the United States by Swiss collector Jacques Légeret.

It was through **contact with British settlers that the Amish, who arrived in Pennsylvania as early as 1737, discovered patchwork.** Reuse, sharing, precision — Amish women embraced the practicality of patchwork, adopting its values and initially working alone before

coming together in groups for the final steps of quilting.

Since its first real quilt show in 1995, Carrefour has paid tribute to Amish quilts while also celebrating modern and contemporary textile art from around the world.

At Carrefour, quilts are more than just pieces of fabric sewn together — they are bridges between continents, connecting centuries-old traditions with vibrant, avant-garde expressions.



Val d'Argent — The Soul of the Carrefour

Every month of September, over four days, Val d'Argent transforms into an open-air gallery, staying true to its spirit of sharing, discovery, and cultural exchange. **Since the 1995 first show, Carrefour has taken over the villages of Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines, Sainte-Croix-aux-Mines, Lièpvre, and Rombach-le-Franc,** converting as many as 18 locations into exhibition spaces — churches, community halls, historic buildings — all reimagined to showcase textile art from around the world.

This unmissable event masterfully blends cultural heritage with contemporary creations, offering visitors an exceptional showcase of textile art in all its forms. Its strategic location at the crossroads of France, Germany, and Switzerland gives the show a distinctly European dimension, where enthusiasts come together in a spirit of curiosity and warmth

Driven by dedicated professionals, committed volunteers, and local inhabitants proud of their region, Carrefour is more than just an art show—it's a human adventure woven with passion and connection.

Throughout the festival, the valley comes alive with the rhythm of patchwork. Cafés and restaurants transform into gathering spots where people share tips, stories, and textile favorites. Strolling from one exhibition to another also means wandering through cobbled streets lined with half-timbered houses, artisan shops, and traditional bakeries. Between its mining past and textile heritage, Val d'Argent reveals its deep creative roots at every turn.

The Carrefour - The European Quilt Show is:

Key Figures

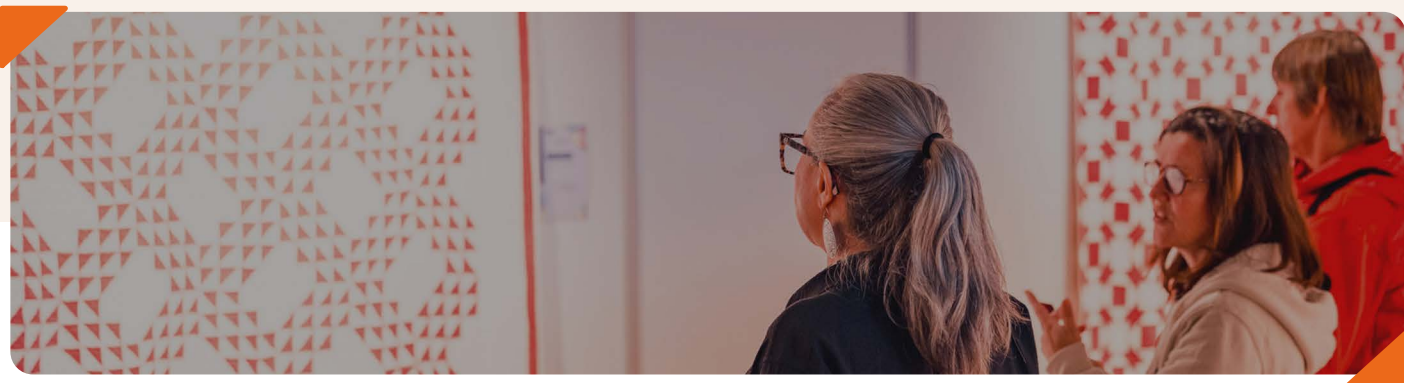
- **4,500 sqm vendor area with free entrance**
- **Over 15,000 visitors expected each year**
- **30 years of experience** sharing learning among fabric enthusiasts, experts, and beginners
- Over **1,100 works** to admire
- More than **35 exhibitions** from across the globe **each year**
- A dynamic showcase of contemporary textile art, spread across **18 exhibition venues**
- **4 towns:** a journey of artistic and touristic discovery
- Around **40 nationalities** represented

A unique Exhibition

Ranked among the **top three textile art events worldwide**, Carrefour - The European Quilt Show offers an **extensive showcase of textile art** each year. From patchwork to embroidery, mixed media, dyeing, crochet, and lace — every form of textile art converges for four days of creative frenzy.

The artistic program is entirely renewed each year. While some venues may host artists across

multiple editions, the works displayed are always new. Exclusivity and showcasing premier works are two core values that have defined the event's reputation since 1995. **Icons of the quilting world and major institutions have already exhibited or participated in the event:** Carolyn L. Mazloomi, Nancy Crow, Victoria Findlay Wolfe, Paula Nadelstern, Libs Elliott, Luke Haynes, SAQA, the International Quilt Museum, Quilt National, and many more.



On Site: Inspiration and a whirlwind of Activities

Works from all corners of the globe. Vibrant colors, minimalist designs, bold shapes, powerful messages. Renowned artists share the stage with emerging talents and their very first creations.

At Carrefour, it's all about celebration. But above all, it's about passing on knowledge. Courses, workshops, retreats, and talks — here, ancient techniques are taught, new skills are honed, eyes meet, and emotions are shared.



Workshops

A diverse selection of workshops awaits you — perfect for learning, sharing, marvelling, and making new connections. Whether by hand or machine, make the most of this experience to explore new techniques alongside passionate instructors. **Workshops are available for all skill levels.**



Retreats

A dedicated classroom, intensive days, nearby accommodation, and full board — all the right ingredients for the **multi-day retreats led by a featured artist.**

Twenty to twenty-five participants from around the world come together for a unique learning experience, creating a melting pot of fabrics and needles, all

driven by the desire to learn and inspired by the guidance of renowned artists.

Since the launch of the retreats, participants have had the chance to learn from some of **the biggest names in patchwork, including Nancy Crow, Luke Haynes, Carolina Oneto, and Libby Lehman.**

Lectures

A variety of free lectures enrich the program, covering diverse topics such as the history of the Amish, the evolution of textiles, and quilt and patchwork techniques.

Attending a conference is the perfect way to take a break between exhibitions and learn from experts and artists from around the world who are eager to share their knowledge.

Whether it's exploring the history of patchwork, the textile heritage of Val d'Argent, the customs and traditions of quilters from distant lands, technical advice, or practical insights — every reason is a good one to spend an hour in the conference room on the first floor of the Theatre.



The contest

Each year in **September**, the organizers of Carrefour - The European Quilt Show conceive **a new theme, giving rise to the annual competition open to passionate quilters from all over the world.**

Participants have several months to design and create their works before submitting their entries in

the spring. This competition serves as a prestigious showcase for quilters worldwide.

Three judges review all submitted works through photographs and select the 30 quilts that best represent the year's theme while demonstrating exceptional craftsmanship.

30 finalists

In September, this exclusive selection is unveiled to the public at the show. The awards ceremony is a grand occasion, celebrating the artists and announcing the winners, including the Grand Prize, Audience

Choice Award, and various sponsor prizes, **with a total value of over €20,000.**

After the show, the **30 selected** works embark on a **10-month tour**, gracing prominent art galleries

The competition's selected quilts have already been exhibited in notable venues, including:

- **Australia:** Australasian Quilt Convention
- **Brazil:** Quilt Brasil
- **Korea:** Quilt Festival in Korea (QFiK)
- **Japan:** World Quilt Festival
- **USA:** Dairy Barn Arts Center and the prestigious National Quilt Museum in Paducah
- **New Zealand:** Great New Zealand Quilt Show
- **Czech Republic:** Brno Patchwork Meeting

Additionally, the quilts have also been displayed in **Italy, Spain, Russia, and South Africa**, further extending the reach and impact of **the Carrefour's annual competition.**



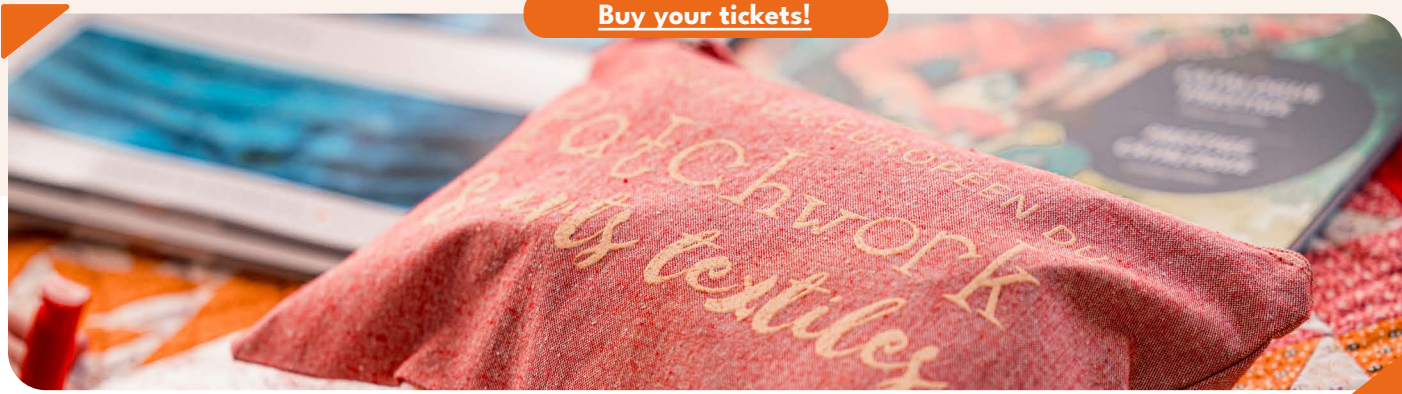
The 2024 International Ocean Competition at AQC, Melbourne (Australia)

Visitors from around the world, along with local fabric enthusiasts, gather in the halls of the vendor area located in Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines. There, they can explore nearly 100 stands showcasing specialized vendors, designers, fabric suppliers, and creators from all corners of the globe.

From Thursday to Sunday, the biggest global brands in the world of fabric and needlework set up shop from 9 AM to 6 PM, both indoors and outdoors, offering the perfect opportunity to spot the latest trends and stock up on supplies for upcoming projects.

Access to the vendor area is free of charge every day. Visitors will need a wristband to access the exhibitions, available through the ticket office either online or on-site.

[Buy your tickets!](#)

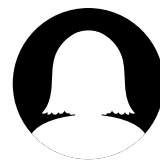


Reviews



Jocelyne(France): «**This event is such a wealth of discoveries, sharing, and connections** between creators from around the world. It's my breath of fresh air — I leave each time brimming with new projects.»

Béatrice (France): «I attended for the first time last September and **was absolutely blown away by the quality and diversity of the exhibitions**, as well as the organization. **The artists were present and truly approachable.** A pure delight. And not to mention the importance of the vendor area!»



Estela (Brazil): «Oh, what a pleasure it was to experience this festival... such an incredible **diversity of nations**. The exhibitions were well-organized, packed with beautiful, meaningful works. I loved it... Highly recommended!»

Clara (Colombia, Switzerland): «I highly recommend it for the exceptional **quality of the artists and their stunning works** — truly **inspiring and enriching**, thanks to the vast **variety** of techniques showcased. The diverse activities and the themed competition complete the experience. Plus, the venues themselves are beautiful and reflect the character of the region. I had a wonderful four-day stay filled with memorable encounters and **special moments centered around patchwork**, perfectly living up to the name 'Carrefour - The European Quilt Show'!»



Access and Practical Information

Discover the **four towns hosting the exhibitions:**

- Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines
- Sainte-Croix-aux-Mines
- Lièpvre
- Rombach-le-Franc

Parking :

- Each town provides parking areas near the exhibition venues. Check the map to plan your route or opt for a hassle-

free visit using the free shuttle buses — no need to drive once you're in Val d'Argent.

By Car, reach the event via the main roads:

- From **Mulhouse** or **Strasbourg**: A35 highway, exit 17, then RN59 towards Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines.
- From **Nancy** or **Saint-Dié**: RN59 via the Col de Sainte

Marie or the Maurice Lemaire tunnel (toll).

By Train & Bus

- The SNCF offers daily routes from the Sélestat and Saint-Dié-des-Vosges stations via TER bus line A20.
- Free Shuttle Buses
- Buses serve all 4 towns, running approximately every 20 minutes.

Press Pass, Resources & Contact

Get a Press Pass During the Event

- **Would you like to cover the next Carrefour**, up close with the artists? Apply for your press pass! Pending approval by our Communications team, it will be valid throughout the 4-day event, including workshops and retreats.

Apply for press pass here: www.patchwork-europe.eu/presse/

Are you writing an article about the event and need content?

- Ressources : In addition to this press kit, we have a media photo library available upon request.
- Would you like to propose an **interview**, conference, or **podcast**? Get in touch with us!
- Are you interested in learning more about the workshops and vendors in the vendor area?

For more information, visit our website: www.patchwork-europe.eu/

Contacts:



Marion KELLER
ARTISTES & COMMUNICATION
Artistic & digital communication manager

+33 (0)3 89 58 33 13
+33 (0)7 44 97 64 23
exposition@patchwork-europe.eu

QR code and LinkedIn icon



Adeline PERRIN
ESPACE COMMERCIAL & COURS
Vendor area & workshops manager

+33 (0)3 89 73 53 52
+33 (0)7 44 93 13 51
contact@patchwork-europe.eu

QR code and LinkedIn icon

Partner institutions:



CARREFOUR EUROPÉEN DU PATCHWORK / CARREFOUR - THE EUROPEAN QUILT SHOW

A show organized by Événementiel en Val d'Argent
5 rue Kroeber Imlin, 68160 Sainte-Marie-Aux-Mines