



2026
International
Contest

HABITAT

CONTEST RULES

HOW TO PARTICIPATE?

Registration

The registration form can exclusively be filled out on the event's official website:

www.patchwork-europe.eu > The contests > 2026 International Contest

Registration deadline

May 15, 2026 at noon
(Paris time)

Entry fees

€30 per piece. Entry fees are compulsory and non-refundable. Up to two works may be submitted (1 file per work)

State of work upon entry

The piece must be finished when the entry form is filled.

Any unfinished work will be disqualified.

Novelty: The work must be recent (less than a year old). The submitted piece **must not be publicly exhibited** prior to entry or after submission. If your work is chosen as one of the 30 finalists for exhibition at the Carrefour - the European Quilt Show **it must not be displayed or exhibited elsewhere** prior to the event.

However, you are free to share photos of your quilt on social media or any other platform **after the jury's decision, in July**. Participants are expected to comply with these rules to ensure the integrity and exclusivity of the competition.

Size of the artwork

All entries **MUST** comply with the following size requirements:

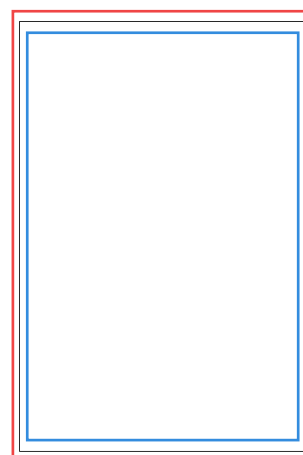
Width: 80 cm (31.5 inches)

Height: 120 cm (47 inches)

A **5%** difference will be tolerated, so works should measure in **width** between min.76 cm (29,9 in.) and max.84 cm (33,07 in.); and min.114 (44.88 in.) and max.126 cm (49.6 in.) in **height**.

Failure to comply with these measures will result in disqualification.

31.5 x 47 in.



Height:

Min. 44.88 in
Max. 49.6 in

Width

Min. 29.9 in
Max. 33.07 in



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ENTRY TIPS

Mandatory

Travel

The 30 finalist pieces will travel internationally for long periods of time. For this reason, they must remain foldable.

Descriptions

To complete the entry process, you will be asked to provide several items. If you prepare them in advance, you'll save time.

General description

Describe the history and symbolism of your work, how it relates to the theme, what inspired you.

Maximum 50 words

Technical description

Briefly describe the techniques used, the fabrics chosen and perhaps your choice of colors.

Maximum 25 words

Please make sure you respect the text lengths requested, otherwise they will be cut off.

You can choose to write in French, English, German or Spanish. Please pay attention to spelling and punctuation: these texts describe your creation and will be read by the jury, the organizers and the public if your work is selected.

Matériaux

- All textile art techniques are accepted, provided that the work is made of more than 1 layer of fabric
- Avoid thin materials that tear or wrinkle easily, as well as rigid materials (like metal) that can't be folded
- Non-textile materials are welcome, as long as their weight is minimal, but fabric **MUST** comprise most of the piece and the piece **MUST** be foldable
- Fabric can be sewn, appliquéed, collaged, fused, painted or drawn on
- Use of leather or any animal-issued materials is not accepted

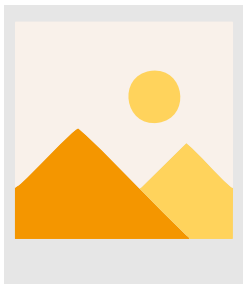


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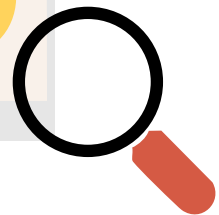
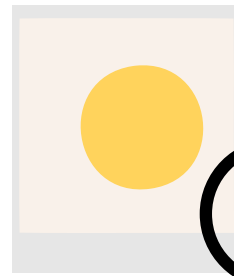
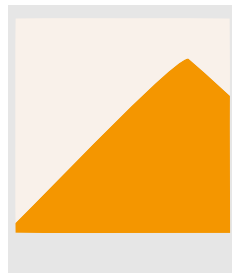
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Photos

The jury will make its selection on the basis of the photos submitted, so the quality of the photos is a decisive factor. Each entry form must be accompanied by **3 high-quality photos**:



One of the full piece including all its edges, with the background visible. Entries that do not clearly display the quilt's edges will be immediately disqualified



Two pictures of areas that offer a good detailed view, sufficient to appreciate the craftsmanship

- The work submitted must be photographed against a white or black background, **in high resolution and sent in .JPEG or .JPG, 300 dpi quality**
- Maximum size per photo: **5 MB** (there is no minimum size, but below 2 MB the quality may not be sufficient for the jury's appreciation)
- **Colors must be true to reality:** no colorimetric or aesthetic retouching will be accepted
- **No other format than JPEG/JPG will be accepted (no PNG, TIFF, PDF, etc.)**

SAQA has developed a **tutorial containing essential tips for showcasing and photographing** your artwork. [You can view it here](#) (in English only).

Use of the visuals

The artistic rights of the work remain the property of the artist. By sending the digital photos, the participant automatically agrees to their free use for promotional purposes, in the press, internet, printed and social media by the organizers and contest hosts while traveling.

All the selected works will be presented in the souvenir Catalog of the corresponding Carrefour - European Quilt Show event.



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Copyright

The submitted piece must be an original creation that showcases the artist's distinct expression and creativity. If it draws inspiration from an existing work, the source must be properly cited, ensuring it's not a direct copy or reproduction. Participants are responsible for complying with copyright laws and avoiding any infringement on third-party intellectual property rights.

When using artificial intelligence (AI) in the creative process, participants must also adhere to copyright regulations. AI should serve as a tool to enhance the artist's vision, with the final work clearly reflecting significant human contribution. **The artist remains responsible for the originality of the submission,** even when AI is involved. Any AI-generated content based on existing materials must respect copyright laws, with appropriate attribution to sources or databases used, **to prevent violations of intellectual property rights.**

Key elements

- **Do NOT send quilts by mail or carrier before the jury's decision.** Only the 30 juried works will have to be sent to the organizers
- Any **incomplete registration** file or received after the registration deadline will be refused
- **Entry fees are non-refundable in any case** once a quilt has been submitted
- By entering your quilt you acknowledge that **any quilt that would have been misrepresented in the entry photos**, whose size would've been entered incorrectly or that would visibly be in poor condition -including, but not limited to, torn fabric, stains, strong scents, poor craftsmanship- or **unfinished will be rejected**
- Should your quilt(s) be selected, **you commit to adhering to all guidelines outlined in the contest's rules**, including but not limited to quilt preparation, shipping procedures, and deadlines
- You understand that **if your quilt is received after the designated deadline, it may be returned without being displayed**
- **Decisions made by the exhibition organizers, the jury, and the judges are final and cannot be appealed**
- **The organization can also decide to withdraw the quilt from the selection process or the exhibition (if selected among the finalists) if it is deemed to have been misrepresented in the entry form**, and winners will be required to forfeit any awarded ribbons and/or prizes
- **Failure to comply with the rules will result in suspension of the maker's rights to enter the contest for 5 years.** The organization can also decide to withdraw the quilt from the selection process or the exhibition (if selected among the finalists) if it is deemed to have been misrepresented



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GRADING

Jury

An international jury of several textile arts professionals appointed by the organizer will select the 30 works that will compose the exhibition. This year's jury will be composed of:



Brenda Gael Smith
Australia



Sophie Zaugg
Switzerland



Teresa Duryea Wong
USA

The jury's decisions are irrevocable and do not have to be justified. The jury also reserves itself the right to exclude any non-conforming creation on the basis of the photos and/or texts presented.

Judging criteria

To guide you in the creation of your work, please find below the evaluation criteria on which the judges will base their assessment.

Visual impact

- **Composition:** the piece catches the eye, the composition is balanced between shapes, colors and textures. These elements make for a homogeneous piece
- **Color:** color combination and color choice are effective. Contrast and harmony are visible
- **Creativity:** the piece presents a new design, innovative ideas or techniques. It's not a reproduction or another work or pattern

Technique

- **Sewing technique:** piecing/appliqué or other techniques are well mastered, edges and lines are precise, stitches are not showing, stitches are flat, precise and thin
- **Quilting technique:** quilt design is effective and adds to the piece, quilting amount is balanced, stitches are consistent in space and pressure, parallel lines are symmetrical, no wrinkles, curves are smooth, quilting scale is well chosen (size and proportion)
- **Finishing:** borders are straight, no waves or curves, consistent width, stitches are regular, edges are well defined, there are no visible defects

Theme

- **Relation:** to the theme is obvious or quick understandable
- **Creativity:** the piece offers a personal interpretation of the theme in an original way as opposed to a basic representation of the theme while keeping away from stereotypes



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Awards

Awards will be picked and made public (except People's Choice) during the awards ceremony held during the premiere of the exhibition at the Carrefour - European Quilt Show.

Finalists will receive an invitation to attend the ceremony with a complimentary day-pass for all exhibitions for that day.



Best of Show

by jury vote, **2000 €**.



People's Choice Award

by Carrefour visitors' votes, **€1000**.
The winner of the People's Choice Award will be announced after the event.

And several other prizes from the contest official sponsors (checks and professional supplies for patchwork and quilting).

Attention

The Best of Show will remain the property of the organizers and will be added to the collection of the Carrefour, without any possible recourse.

CONTEST AGENDA

- Enter your work **before Friday, May 15, 2026 at noon** (Paris time)
- **Selection is made by the jury**
- **Results will be shared via email on Thursday, July 9, 2026**

For the 30 works juried into the exhibition

- Deadline to send your work by post/carrier: **July 31, 2026**
- Exhibition premiere: **September 17-20, 2026** at the Carrefour - European Quilt Show
- Awards ceremony: Friday, **September 18, 2026 at 2:30 PM** in Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines



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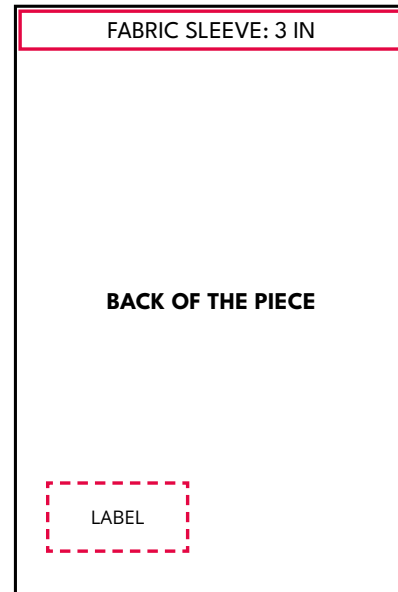
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DETAILED RULES FOR THE 30 FINALISTS

How to prepare your quilt once it has been selected

A **label** indicating work title, name and surname of the maker, home address, email address, and telephone number must be sewn on the back of the piece (lefthand bottom corner).

The quilt must have **an 8 cm (3 inches) height fabric sleeve** sewn onto the back top prior to shipment which will allow it to hang easily.



Transportation and insurance

Outward trip

- If selected by the jury, shipping is mandatory
- Should your artwork be selected, **it must be sent to the organizers' office by July 31, 2026**
- **Transportation costs and any customs duties are the responsibility of the participants**
- The organizer cannot be held responsible for any damage caused during transportation
- The quilts will be sent back in their original boxes if they are in good condition. Further details on packaging will be given to the artists whose works will be selected.

Note: By submitting your quilt you understand that the organizers will not be responsible for filing claims with shipping carriers. Any concerns or disputes related to shipping must be handled directly by the quilt sender (submitter), who will act as the claimant in all communications with the shipping company.

Return trip

The return process will begin at the end 2027/beginning 2028, after the conclusion of its exhibition tour. The detailed itinerary will be provided at a later date. Return shipments will be handled by mail or carrier, depending on their destination. The cost is borne by the participant, and must be paid by bank transfer. The amount will vary according to the country, the rates in force and the volumetric weight of the parcel. The original packaging will be reused for the return shipment, if in a suitable condition.



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Insurance

The organizer will insure the works from their arrival at the organizers' office until their return. Participating artists acknowledge that international shipping carries a limited risk of loss or damage to artwork. In the event that the organizers are unable to recover the artwork or restore it to its original condition, the artist agrees to waive any claims for compensation or damages against the organizers.

Contest travel



The selected works will be able to travel for over a year in other textile events, museums and galleries around the world, under the responsibility of the organizer. The quilts will be returning to the organizers' office end 2027/beginning 2028 (yet to be confirmed). Insurance during contest travel is handled by the organizer.

If the work entered is deemed too fragile or not in conformity, it will be refused by the organizers. According to the requirements, the artworks may be folded for transportation, rather than rolled.

Sale



It's not uncommon for works to attract interest from potential buyers during their travels. Any of the 30 finalists' works may therefore be offered for sale by the artist, if he or she so wishes. The price charged will be that indicated on the competition entry form, unless otherwise stated. **On the selling price communicated by the artist, the organizer will deduct a commission of 20% for its intermediation services.**

The work may be sold only after the work has returned from its travels, but the maker will be informed of any interest from a buyer during travel.