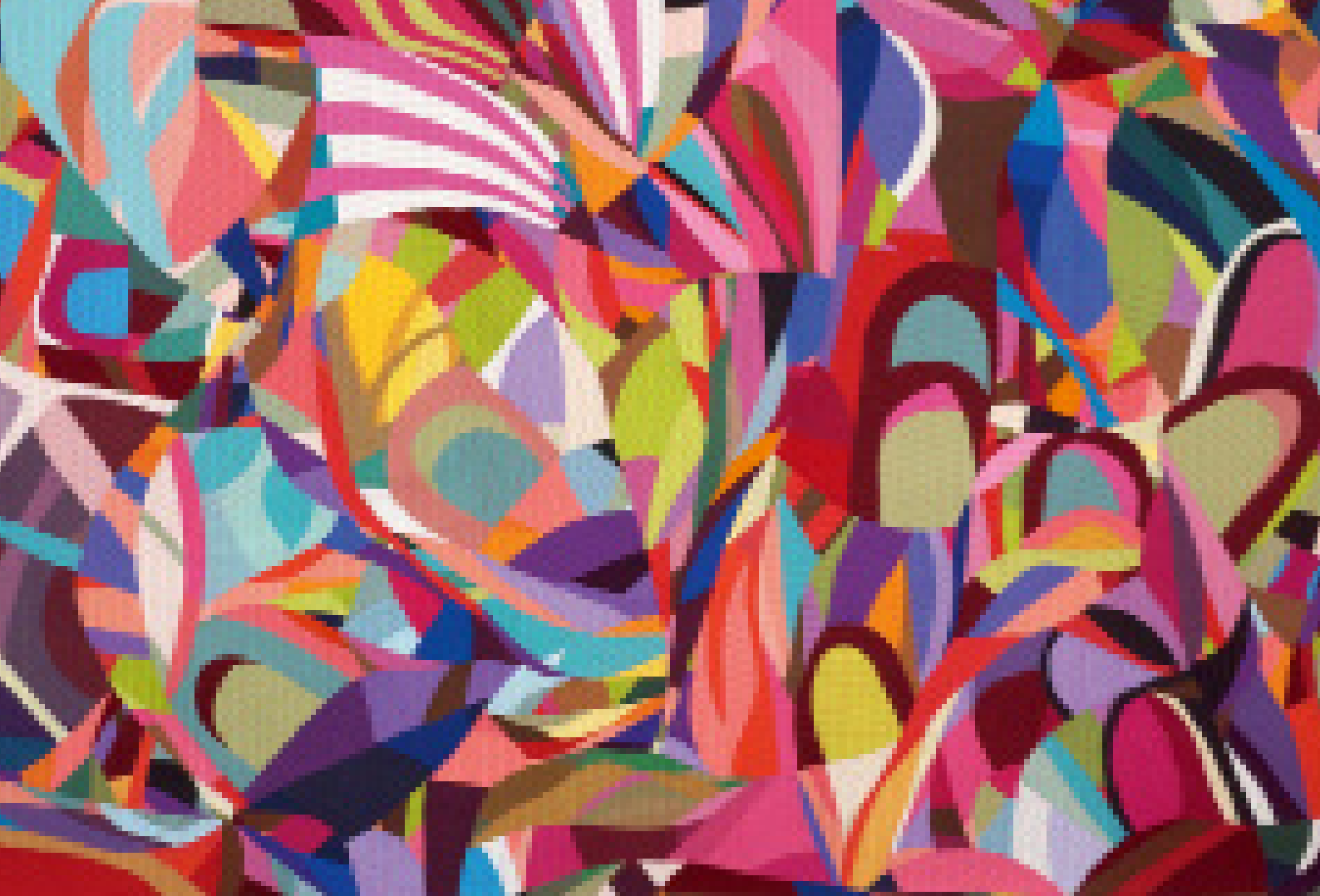




Jessie Parker - www.jessieparker.com



Carrefour
Européen
Patchwork

Press kit

September 17 - 20, 2026

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Quilts, small towns, and stories, since 1995

CONTENTS

Amish History in Val d'Argent

31 Years of Textile Art History

What is Carrefour - The European Quilt Show?

In 2026

Vendor area

Artists

The contests

The Meetup

Workshops

Retreats

Lectures

Press pass



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.



Amish farmer - Lancaster County, PA, USA (2026)

Picture : M.KELLER

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 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 reimaged 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.



31 Years of Textile Art History

What is patchwork today ?

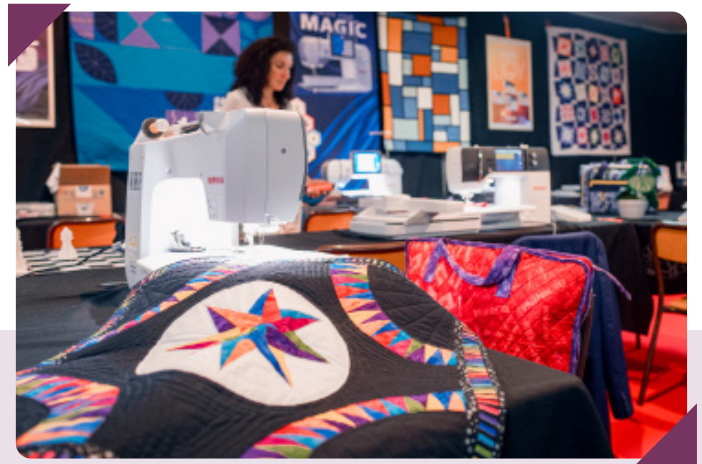
Limitless creative expression: at its core, **patchwork is the art of stitching together different pieces of fabric**. Mending a ripped pair of jeans? That's patchwork! A **quilt** takes **patchwork** to the next level by adding batting for warmth and texture, along with a backing fabric, binding all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

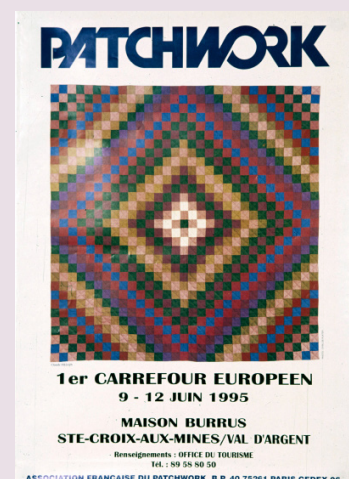


A celebration of vibrant colors and captivating textures

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.

What is Carrefour - The European Quilt Show?

Key Figures

- **4,500 sqm** vendor area with free entrance
- **15,000 visitors** expected each year
- **31 years** of experience sharing learning among fabric enthusiasts, experts, and beginners
- Over **1,200 works** to admire
- More than **39 artists** from across the globe
- A dynamic showcase of contemporary textile art, spread across **16 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.

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.



Textile art in all its richness, from every corner of the globe

This new show celebrates creative freedom and the endless diversity of textile languages worldwide. Without borders or limits, the works showcased this year weave a fascinating dialogue between cultures, where materials, colors, and personal stories resonate through the needle.

From ancestral skills to the most avant-garde experimentation, the featured **international artists** present a resolutely universal vision of textile art: diverse, vibrant, and deeply contemporary.

Artistic program

For this 31st show, the featured artists come from every continent, with works from **Canada** (featuring Émilie Trahan), **Australia**, **Finland**, the **United States**, **Japan**, as well as **Germany** and **Switzerland**. Not to mention, of course, a strong **French** and **European** presence. A true crossroads of cultures, inspirations, and techniques to discover!



The artists



Armi Heikkinen



ASL LIEPVRE



Association Française d'Histoire Anabaptiste et Mennonite



Barbara Lange



Brenda Gael Smith



C. Dosh, I. Wiessler, Konmasa



Challenge 5-25



Clara Stoikow



International Contest Carrefour 2026



Delphine Twitchett



Dominique Rodrigues



Elfriede Grooten



Ellen Remijnse (EQP Textiles) & Kristel Salgarollo



Émilie Trahan



European Quilt Association



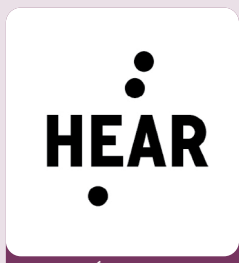
France Patchwork



Genesis Hall



Guldusi



Haute École des Arts du Rhin



Heidi König



International Quilt Museum



Hungarian Patchwork Guild



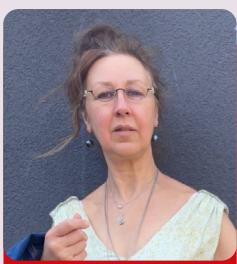
Kelly Spell



Les Textilo-Créatives



Marithé & Didier Malfériol



Marylène Loës



Patchwork Gilde Deutschland



Quilt en Rêve



Quilt India Foundation



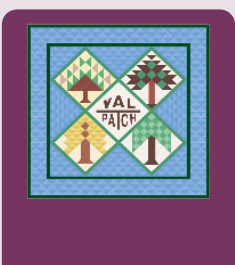
Sarah Hibbert



Sophie Zaugg



The Modern Quilt Guild



VAL PATCH



DSAA InSituLab (Le Corbusier Illkirch-Graffenstaden)

Discover the artists



Vendor area

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



[Discover the vendor area](#)



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.



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 18, at 2:30 PM at the Pavillon Osmont in Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines.**

Each year, a new theme conceived by the organizers inspires quilters. After several months of creation, three judges review all submitted works and select the 30 quilts that best represent the year's theme while demonstrating exceptional craftsmanship. After debuting at Carrefour, these works will continue their journey across international events.

This year, the contest honors the theme **Habitat**. A unique collection of **30** works showcasing the most creative pieces in contemporary patchwork. Furthermore, Carrefour visitors will be invited to vote on-site during **the 4 days of the event** to choose their favorite work and determine the Audience Choice Award (**endowed with a €1,000 prize**). The winner of this prize will be revealed the week following the event.

Discover the Habitat contest

2026's 30 finalists

Hwakyung LEE (KR)

Magda GAŚOWSKA (PL)

Jayeun SHIN (KR)

Yongjeong KIM (KR)

Eva GUSTEMS (ES)

Sandra KAISER (DE)

Judit VÍZER (LU)

Isabel MUÑOZ (ES)

Rhoda BENNETT (LU)

Jungeun TARK (KR)

Szilvia KERÉKGYÁRTÓ (HU)

Jeankyung PARK (KR)

Dieter FILLER (FR)

Maria VIITA (FI)

Agathe LESUEUR (FR)

Diana FOX (US)

Sandrine OSTERMANN (FR)

Niraja LORENZ (US)

Angela MINAUDO (IT)

Terry Ann HARTZELL (US)

Karolina BAKOWSKA (PL)

Maria E. CORBELLA (ES)

Birgitta JADENFELT (SE)

Linda STEELE (AU)

Gabriele SCHULTZ-HERZBERGER (DE)

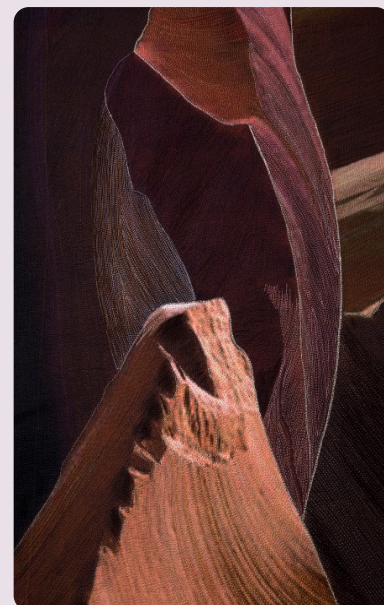
Beatrice GILBERT (US)

Gabrielle GELLOZ CLARK (FR)

Marion CASPERS (DE)

Marie-Francine BROCHARD (FR)

Brigitte DIDIER (FR)

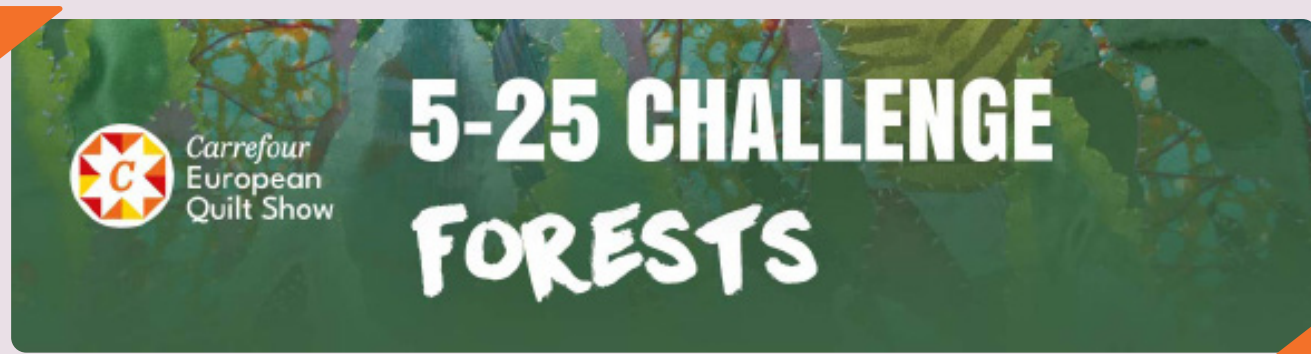


Antelope-Canyon by Younkyung Song



The Young Quilters Meetup

Because passing on knowledge is at the core of its DNA, Carrefour - The European Quilt Show is committed to the next generation of textile art with its traditional Youth Challenge, reserved for budding creators aged 5 to 25.



For this **31st show**, this new generation of enthusiasts was invited to explore the enchanting theme of «**Forests**». Whether perceived as a mysterious refuge, a fragile ecosystem to protect, or an imaginary playground, the forest offers endless creative potential.

Through fabrics, embroidery, and colors, these young talents share their own vision of nature and the environment.

The selected works will be featured in a dedicated and refreshing exhibition during the **4 days of the event**, brilliantly proving that needlework has a bright future ahead and knows how to reinvent itself through the eyes of youth!

The selected works will be exhibited under the supportive eyes of a jury composed of three experts: **Paola Zanda, Katell Renon, and Eva Gustems.**



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.**



Retreat

To extend the excitement of the festival, **Carrefour - The European Quilt Show** offers a must-attend post-Carrefour event each year: **an exclusive four-day retreat. It's a rare opportunity to learn in small groups, share special moments,** and dive deep into the creative world of an international artist.

This year, the talented **Tara Miller** will lead this highly anticipated retreat from Monday, **September 21 to Thursday, September 24, from 9 AM to 5 PM.** Her workshop, titled **"Creating a visual universe entirely by hand through appliqué, embroidery, and large-stitch quilting,"** is a true invitation to disconnect and embrace the slow-stitching movement. Quilters will learn to master the fundamentals of textile design by focusing on the precision of handwork.

To ensure personalized guidance and full immersion, **this retreat is strictly limited to 25 participants.** A unique opportunity to develop new techniques in an intimate setting, perfect for creativity and connection!



[Discover the retreat](#)

Lectures

A variety of 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.**

Price: €6 / lecture



[Discover the lectures](#)

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/

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CARREFOUR EUROPÉEN DU PATCHWORK / CARREFOUR - THE EUROPEAN QUILT SHOW

Un événement organisé par Événementiel en Val d'Argent
5 rue Kroeber Imlin, 68160 Sainte-Marie-Aux-Mines