

"Picture This"

- Guild members were asked to submit digital photographs to be used as inspiration for challenge quilts. The inspiration photo was randomly chosen from all eligible submissions. The photographer retains copyright to their work, but by submitting a photo agree that the image may be used by another guild member for the purpose of creating a challenge quilt. The photographer, Estelle Inn, will be credited on the quilt label. For a digital copy of the photograph, e-mail Michele or Ellen.
- Quilts need not reproduce the photograph (although quilters may choose to do so). Challenge participants should include with their entries a brief statement (less than 100 words) describing how the photograph influenced their quilt (color palette, shapes, whatever the inspiration was).
- If you use some else's design/pattern, you MUST be able to obtain permission from the designer to exhibit your quilt at AQS.
- Each quilt should have a fabric "frame" at least one inch wide. (This may take the form of a wide binding, or may be more elaborate. A "frame" that looks like a slide mount is also acceptable.) Edges do not need to be straight if you choose a more elaborate frame design.
- You may use any fabrics and quilting techniques you choose. There is no specific challenge fabric and no specific color restrictions or requirements.
- Quilt must be square or rectangular, 30"-50" on a side, to be included in the AQS Ultimate Guild Challenge. Rectangles may be either landscape or portrait configuration. (Dimensionally, a 5" x 7" photo works up to 35" x 49"; a 4" x 6" photo would be 32" x 48". These are examples, not requirements.) If your edges are not straight, measure across the widest point.
- Entries must be quilted by hand or machine, or both. Non-quilted items will not be accepted.
- As in past years, eight of our challenge entries will be selected for submission to the American Quilters Society's Ultimate Guild Challenge. For your quilt to be eligible for consideration, the following AQS rules must be observed:
 - Quilts must be in excellent condition, having no stains, pet hair, or smoke or other odors.
 - Each quilt must have a 4 inch hanging sleeve or rod pocket that is sewn 0.5 inch from the top edge (http://www.americanquilter.com/documents/shows_contests/sleeve_instructions.pdf) and a label containing the quiltmaker's name and a copy of the inspiration photo attached securely on the back.
 - Quilts displayed in a previous AQS contest (Paducah, Nashville, Des Moines) or made from pre-cut or stamped kits are ineligible.
 - Quilts must be a single unit and not framed with wood, metal, glass, etc.

Deadline for turning in your challenge quilts is February 7, 2011. This will allow time to judge and photograph the quilts to meet the March 4, 2011 deadline for submitting the selected eight quilts to the AQS Ultimate Guild Challenge.

Judging requirements:

- Each quilt will be determined to meet the guild challenge criteria before judging.
- The primary focus of the judges will be on workmanship – whether there is an adequate amount of quilting, how straight the quilt hangs without ripples and waves, if the binding is done, the miters well done, etc. Other factors such as creativity, color choices, overall appeal are also considered, but carry less weight than workmanship. Our tip: It's been observed at prior AQS shows, that winning entries typically have fairly heavy quilting, are evenly quilted, and hang quite flat.
- If more than eight quilts are judged to have equally outstanding workmanship, the judges will be asked to consider which eight work best as a group.

If you have questions or would like a copy of the photograph, please contact Michele Barnard at 301-990-7806 (michele.barnard@gmail.com), or Ellen Robinson at 301-972-2004 (mdellenh2o@juno.com).