

## What is an Art Quilt?

The Merrimack Valley Quilters provides this information to encourage guild members to venture into the world of art quilts. Art quilting is the opposite of traditional quilting with its more rigid use of block structure and more precise use of fabric colors.

Art quilts do not easily fall into one category. “The emphasis is on the design rather than functionality. Art quilts are also created in a variety of styles such as Abstract, Improvisational, Collage, Landscape or Nature Inspired, as well as Pictorial or Portrait quilts.”<sup>1</sup>

It is difficult to find one definition concerning art quilts that will suit our purposes. Here is one:

“An art quilt will have several different characteristics that separate it from other types of quilts:

The quilter is inspired by something, such as a painting or something from real life.

The quilter will use different types of sewing and piecing techniques to do something artistic with the quilt.

The quilter might spend more time on the quilt and finesse over the finished product.”<sup>2</sup>

The quilter’s use of imagination and different techniques all combine into one quilt to provide an opportunity to explore new and different approaches to quilting. Techniques can include painting, dyeing, stamping, piecing, collage, printing (often incorporating a photograph printed onto fabric), applique as well as the use of embellishments and decorative stitching.

While art quilts can be of any size, most art quilts are made primarily to hang on the wall and are not sized for use on beds. Due to construction techniques, they are not really suited for everyday use.

Final note: In more formal and/or larger quilt shows, an art quilt will be expected to be an original work. In the Merrimack Valley Quilters quilt show, our art quilt category is not as rigid. We will accept art quilts made from patterns.

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<sup>1</sup> [Thequiltshow.com/quiltipedia/what-are-art-quilts](http://Thequiltshow.com/quiltipedia/what-are-art-quilts)

<sup>2</sup> [Carolinaoneto.com](http://Carolinaoneto.com)