EUROPEAN QUILT ASSOCIATION

Juried Challenge 2026/2027 "DESIRE"

The aim of the European Quilt Association is to promote quilting across borders, cultures and language barriers. For the third consecutive year, in February 2027, EQA has been allocated an exhibition space at Abilmente Primavera in Vicenza, Italy. An exhibition will be presented on the theme of "Desire".
"Desire", often described as a strong want, is connected to emotions but can also be viewed as a separate state driving actions. In psychology and philosophy, it arises from needs and may lead to emotions such as joy or frustration when fulfilled or denied.

Use your own definition and imagination to represent your "Desire" and produce and create an original textile work.

Depending on the number of participants and the space available for the exhibition, the number of pieces may be limited by an independent jury. Each exposed participant will receive a complimentary entrance ticket to the Abilmente Primavera Vicenza fair. Valuable prizes will be awarded for "Best in Show" and two runners-up, on Saturday at 12:00.

Rules

1. The quilt must show a "DESIRE" or be associated in some way with the theme of "desire".
2. Any technique or style may be used. 3D works are not accepted, and it is recommended not to use heavy or fragile materials or accessories.
3. Binding: must align with the style of the work, and the required dimensions must be strictly respected.
   The dimensions are **width 80 cm by height 120 cm** (± 2 cm), vertical orientation.
   Quilts that do not meet the size requirements are not accepted!
4. The piece must be single-sided (not reversible), with a minimum sleeve width of 10 cm and positioned 2 cm from the top edge of the quilt.
5. The label on the back must contain the quilt title, artist's name, email address and country of origin.
6. All EQA Association members may participate and there is no registration fee. The works are not for sale. One registration form pro person.
7. Please do not share complete images of the quilts in any public/social forum before publication by EQA. The photos may be used by EQA for publicity purposes.

8. The collection will be exhibited at Abilmente in Vicenza, Italy, in February 2027 and will be available for quilting events in EQA member countries by agreement.

9. Register your participation to the challenge using the form beneath or by sending your name, address, email electronically or by post by **15 September 2026** to your national EQA representative (this can be done using association websites, where available).

10. Judging will be anonymous and carried out by an international jury of professional quilt judges from EQA member countries. The selection is final and cannot be contested. Participants selected for the exhibition will receive a ticket for Abilmente. Prizes will be awarded for "Best in Show/the best in the collection" and for two runners-up.
    The selection will be done through the photos and statements sent by the participants by 15 November 2026

11. The photos previously sent may be used in EQA announcements or advertisements. Digital images must be saved as high-quality JPEG file and should be at least 2100 pixel on the largest side and not exceed more than 12 MB per file.

12. As other venues may be identified after this call for participation is published, it is not possible to predict the exact duration of the exhibition tour. Entered works must be available for the entire duration of the exhibition, possibly up to two/three years.

13. Privacy Policy:

    a. EQA and the affiliated guilds will photograph the entries. EQA and the national guilds holds the perpetual right to use these images and may publish them free of charge in their media

    b. EQA and the affiliated guilds may forward images of the entries to its sponsors and the organizers of trade fairs at which it is represented, so that they too may publish them in their media for promotional purposes.

    c. The data collected is required for the processing of the competition and will only be used for this purpose.

14. Insurance for the works is the responsibility of the participants.

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REGISTRATION FORM

NAME	
ADDRESS	
GUILD NUMBER	
TEL.N°/MOBILE	
E-MAIL	

Quilt title in your language:	
Quilt title in English:	

☐ **I have read the rules and accept the conditions of participation**[1]

Please note and follow the specified deadlines and steps:

1. **By and no later than 15 September 2026:** complete and send the registration form to your national IR (see point 9 of the rules)
2. **By and no later than 15 November 2026:**
   a. send **3 high resolution photos of the finished work:** One full view photo, one with a detail, one full view front photo that including a readable measuring tape clearly showing the width and height of the piece.
   b. Attach a general description (artist statement) of the quilt to your photos (present the story and symbolism of your work and your sources of inspiration) + briefly the techniques used, fabrics and colours chosen and/or other important details. Maximum 100 words. **Remember that the jury will make their choice from your photos and statements!**
3. **By and no later than 15 December 2026:** send the finished quilt to your national IR

Date and signature:

[1] Please mark with a cross