

Photography for the NJS

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The images must be of a resolution that can be successfully used for jurying as well as for the NJS DVD and catalogue. In order to have a catalogue available for the NJS, the images provided by the entrants are used. This year, because of the online entry procedure, we had the luxury of a bit of time to request better images from a few successful entrants. However, the preference is not to have to do this. Here are a few basic tips for optimal photography:

A professional camera is not necessary to capture a photo that meets the requirements for entry into a show. Following a few basic rules will ensure professional presentation.

The Camera: In the settings, select the highest resolution your camera is capable of capturing. Look for “JPG Fine” to get 300 dpi, which is required should your image go to print.

If your camera allows for the adjustment of White Balance (WB), set it to the primary light source. Florescent light requires the florescent setting, for regular light bulbs set the camera to Tungsten. When photographing indoors, make sure there is only one type of light source. For consistent results take images outside on a cloudy day to avoid shadows on the quilt or garment. If the image is made outside on a cloudy day set the WB to Cloudy.

The Quilt / Garment: Hang the quilt on a large wall, tall fence or the side of a house. Avoid using a clothesline as they never hang straight across and will result in distorted images. Assess the colour of the background and place a pressed white sheet without wrinkles behind the quilt. This will hide strong colours, and distracting lines from fence boards or siding.

The Method: Set up a tripod or ladder for the camera to rest on. Use the viewfinder or LCD display and focus on the centre of the quilt. (Measure top to bottom and side to side if necessary to determine the middle.) Move the camera in close enough to capture the entire quilt without too much space around the quilt. The image may be cropped once it is downloaded to the computer, but avoiding too much space around the subject matter is a good habit to get into.

With your camera in focus make your first image. Check to ensure that the entire quilt has been captured. Adjust if necessary and take several more images for a selection to choose from. Move in closer to make several close up images of techniques and quilting.

If the entry is a bed quilt, an image of it on a bed is required. The jurors determine if the quilt really suits a bed. Therefore, it is important that the quilt is the appropriate size for the bed on which it is displayed. Ensure that the bed is fully made up, showcasing the quilt as well as possible.

The last step is to download the images of the quilt or garment to the computer. Open each image on the computer and carefully examine it. Once an image is selected ensure it is fully in focus. Crop the image to remove excess background, but do not crop into the quilt. Close up images of details on the quilt generally don't have to be cropped.