

COPYRIGHT RELEASES

If you use the designs, photography, art, pattern, or quilt created by another person as the source of your quilt's design, you must obtain that person's written permission before showing your quilt publicly and entering it for competition. This applies whether you have copied, altered, or used only a portion of the design.

This is considered derivative work, which is defined by the dictionary as "something that is based on another source" and "imitative of the work of another person." Designs are considered intellectual property and are covered under the copyright laws of the United States.

Please note that when you see the word "permission" in this document, it refers to written permission, and the permission letter or e-mail should be specific about the permission granted. It is important to keep this for your records and to be able to produce it when asked. This is a protection for you and for any show or venue where the work is displayed.

I only used someone's design as inspiration for my work

This is often the case for quilters; however, if someone else's work is identifiable in yours, you should still ask their permission. If it is not identifiable, it is still common courtesy to credit the artist and the work that provided the inspiration on your entry form.

I purchased my pattern...book...magazine. They sold the patterns to be used. Doesn't that give me all the permission I need?

It only gives you permission to make the quilt for your own use. To show it publicly, enter it into competition, or use it for commercial purposes, you must have the pattern designer's permission.

How do I obtain the permission I need?

Check the inside cover pages of the book or magazine and the back of the pattern. You may find contact information or the artist's website information. If the information is not printed there, contact the publisher and/or search for the artist's website on the internet.

Begin with a short letter or e-mail. Tell the artist that you have made a quilt from their pattern or artwork and attach a photo. Ask their permission to enter it for competition and to publish photographs with proper credit given. Depending on the situation, you might need the publisher's permission, as well.

Is there anything else I need to do?

Credit the artist and state that the work is in the public domain.

What if I cannot locate the artist or the artist is deceased?

If you cannot locate the artist, or if the artist is deceased, contact the publisher, or in the case of a photograph or other artwork, contact the place or website where you found it. This could include art galleries, colleges, or museums. They may own the copyright or be able to put you in touch with the copyright owner.

This copyright information is made available by the Quilts, Inc. strictly for educational purposes. Our intent is to give you general information and a general understanding of the requirements to enter your quilt in the International Quilt Festival Judged Show. By using this information, you understand that this should not be used as a substitution for competent legal advice from a licensed professional attorney in your state.