

This guide invites viewers of all ages to look closely at the quilts in the exhibition The New Quilt and to talk about what you see. A "search and find" activity worksheet is also available.

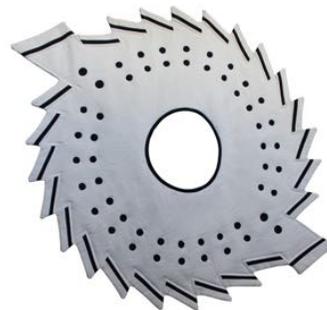
1. WHAT IS A QUILT?

Traditionally, a quilt is a "warm bed covering made of padding enclosed between layers of fabric and kept in place by lines of stitching". Over time, quilting has become a way of artistic expression through the familiar materials of cloth and stitch.

- Do you have any quilts at your house that were made by someone you know?
- Or maybe even made by someone in your family?
- How do you use quilts in your home?

Most of the quilts in this exhibition have been made to display on a wall rather than used on a bed.

What similarities and differences can you think of between the quilts you see in this gallery and the ones you might have at home?



Left to right: *Tuck Me In* by Sophie Conolly; *Circular Permutation* by Amie & Marilyn Andrews; *No Warmth* by Sheila Beer

2. WHAT IS THIS QUILT ABOUT?

This exhibition offers *insight into the concerns of artists living and working in a changing world and how their practice is relevant to the issues of today...* (Juror Judy Hooworth)

As Australian artists drawing inspiration from the world around them, the makers of the quilts in this exhibition explore many themes including: the environment, bushfires, new life and the pandemic.

Find examples of these themes and be the voice of the artwork. Look closely at the quilt and think about its meaning. Take turns to tell the story out loud to your group. Hint : start with these questions:

- What is going on in this picture?
- What do you see that makes you say that?
- What more can we find?



Left to right (details): *Black Summer* by Barbara Gower; *If Only* by Lisa Walton; *Acuity #5: Zemblanity* by Brenda Gael Smith; *Pod* by Jenny Bowker; *The MMXX Quilt* by Jessica Wheelahan

3. WHAT IS THIS QUILT MADE OF AND HOW IS IT MADE?

How many different materials and techniques can you recognise among the quilts? Tick them off as you come across them.

Materials

- Cotton fabric
- Sheer fabrics
- Plastic
- Paper
- Silk
- Denim
- Teatowels
- Photos
- Food packaging
- Charcoal
- Cardboard

Techniques

- Appliqué: where fabric in different shapes is stitched onto a larger piece of fabric.
- Piecing: where two pieces of fabric are joined together with a seam
- Painting
- Thread painting
- Screen printing
- Weaving
- Hand stitching/embroidery
- Eco-dyeing (plant-based dyes)
- Photo-transfer
- Folding
- Coiling



As you find them, discuss the ways in which different artists have used their materials in ways to help convey the message in their artwork.

What is the idea behind the quilt? How has it been made? Why do you think the artist chose to create their work this way?

Detail images clockwise from top: *Corundum* by Beth & Trevor Reid; *Beating the Blues* by Margery Goodall; *summer inferno #5* by Sandra Champion

4. HANDS-ON, HOME ACTIVITY: MEMORY COLLAGE

Artists in this exhibition have used lots of unusual techniques and materials to make their quilts. Have a closer look at the quilts and you will find paper, plastic, folding, coiling and collage.

Why don't you make a paper collage representation of a quilt of your own which communicates your most memorable experience of the past year?

Supplies: You will need:

- a large sheet of paper to build your collage on
- scissors
- glue
- a collection of magazines and collage materials and coloured paper.

While creating your design, consider how to place each element to maximise the communication of your idea. Consider pattern, colour, line, shape and movement.

Cut up your elements and arrange them on the paper. By moving these pieces around, you will see how the placement of each element creates a different effect.

The New Quilt is a juried survey exhibition presented by QuiltNSW at Hawkesbury Regional Gallery from 5 February to 11 April 2021.

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