

## European Art Quilts V - The Judging, a report

April 7 - 9, 2008

The situation was as follows: 160 pieces had been entered by 128 artists from 15 countries. A five-headed international jury had the difficult task to select about 45 works, the selection criteria being originality, artistic quality and expression. The jury, four well-known European textile artists and a gallery owner, was shown a numbered overview image and a close-up of every entry. Requests had been to enter digital images only (15 cm wide, 300 dpi). Both overviews and close-ups were projected simultaneously by means of two computers, two projectors and two screens. All jurors had lists of the works with corresponding numbers, titles, dimensions and the entrant's country of residence (in Europe, or Israel). Of course no names.

The first round consisted of viewing all works, both overview and details, in complete silence to get a first impression of the entries. Each work was shown for 5 seconds and no decisions needed to be made.

The second round was a round of unanimous rejection, with just a little discussion. The following up of images was done by hand this time. On request a work could be shown again. The two administrators took great care to note down the numbers of the rejected works. As my co-administrator read out the numbers I copy/pasted the results of the second round from the All-entries files to the Rejection files on both computers.

The third round was one of unanimous selection, also with just a little discussion. This was a small group, as choices had to be unanimous. These numbers went into the Selection files.

The last round of the first day was a real discussion round in which small samples of the work the organiser had asked for were shown. They proved to be invaluable in case of doubt by a juror, which happened more than once. Colours, materials, techniques, and a general impression looked so much different from a photographed piece. Decisions were made and a few more works could be added to either the selected or the rejected files, all jurors in the end in agreement about the choices.

The second day the great bulk of remaining entrees was to be considered. I had laid down hard copy photos of the overall views on each corresponding sample (if provided), entries from the same countries together. As importance was put on the European character of the exhibition, the organizer preferred no more than about 6-8 selections from each country, the aforesaid criteria always being taken care of.

First of all, the already selected pieces and the remaining pieces were quickly screen-shown to refresh the jurors memories. Then each juror was asked to write down 10-15 pieces of the remaining entries he/she would liked to be in by carefully examining everything that was laid out on the table, choices without discussion. On request specific digital images were shown on the screen and/or artist statements were read out.

All entries with 3-5 votes, and if approved by all jurors, were selected in, and the last few pieces that could still be chosen were chosen after discussion.

To round off a harmonious and fulfilling judging the 42 names of the selected artists were made known and the works were screen-shown, an exhibition with which all jurors were happy.

*Mirjam Pet-Jacobs, secretary administrator and technical assistant EAQF, artist*