

## TIPS FOR TAKING A SHOW ENTRY PHOTOGRAPH:

- All visible light has color, but our eyes and brains adjust our view so we don't see it. The closer you match the camera setting to the available light source on the subject, the more neutral the color balance. A good way to match your light sources is to use the white-balance (WB) controls on your digital camera - Sunny, Cloudy, Shade, Tungsten, etc.
- It is best to use natural lighting, so take your photo outdoors, NEAR NOON. When the sun is directly overhead, the light is most "neutral" and will give your image the most accurate color. Calm days are best. Sunny days will give you higher contrast than high-overcast days. Avoid placing your quilt in the shade on a sunny day because this will give you a blue-ish cast (from the reflected sky).
- Borrow a quilt stand or have a friend (or two) hold your quilt.
- Hold the camera steady and have the camera back parallel to the quilt. Aim the lens at the center of the quilt.
- Take more than one photograph of your quilt. Your odds improve.
- Make sure that the entire quilt is in the photograph, you have allowed a margin around the edge of the quilt and it is in focus.
- Digital cameras capture a narrower exposure range than print film. This means that very bright areas can end up "blown-out" white showing no detail. If your quilt is white on white, or has a lot of white areas and you want to show detailed stitching in these areas, you need to slightly underexpose the image. Try shooting at the recommended exposure and then shooting a second shot at  $\frac{1}{3}$  less exposure time to see which image looks best.
- Avoid taking the picture indoors unless you have studio equipment.
- Do not use the built-in flash on your camera. It can make the photograph "flat" by removing subtle shadow detail. Also the flash is more intense in the center than on the edges.
- The Show Entry Form Coordinator asks that you do not crop, resize or modify the original digital file in any way.

Want more tips or information? Check out "Shoot That Quilt! Digital Photography for Textile Artists" by Andy Baird and Holly Knott  
<http://www.hollyknott.com/stq/index.htm>