

## What is an original quilt design?

- An original quilt design is created entirely from the maker's own ideas, not from a purchased or traditional pattern.
- Changing fabrics, colors, or quilting on an existing pattern does **not** make a quilt original—it is an interpretation.
- Art quilts often lend themselves to original design, especially through appliqué.
- Quilts based on the maker's own photos or drawings qualify as original designs.
- Modern quilting, improvisational piecing, and creative use of space can support original design.



## What Is a Contemporary Quilt?

A **contemporary quilt** is a modern form of textile art that reflects current trends, techniques, and ideas. These quilts often push beyond traditional quilting styles while still using classic sewing methods.

### Key Characteristics of Contemporary Quilts

#### 1. Innovative Design

- Combines traditional quilting techniques with modern aesthetics
- Features bold colors, unexpected patterns, and experimental layouts
- Challenges traditional rules of quilting design

#### 2. Use of Modern Materials

- Made with high-quality cottons and synthetic fabrics
- May include unconventional textiles
- Creates varied textures and visual effects

#### 3. Artistic Expression

- Quilts are used as a form of personal and artistic storytelling
- Artists explore emotions, themes, and ideas through fabric
- Quilts function as both practical items and works of art

#### 4. Influence of Current Trends

- Inspired by modern fashion, art, and design
- Reflects popular color palettes and design styles of today
- Changes as trends evolve



## What Is a Modern Quilt?

According to the Modern Quilt Guild, modern quilts often feature:

- **Improvitational piecing:** creating without a fixed plan or traditional blocks.
- **Minimalism:** simple designs where less is more.
- **Maximalism:** bold, contrasting colors used for strong visual impact.
- **Expansive negative space:** large areas of a single color, often richly quilted.
- **Alternate grid work:** unconventional block arrangements.
- **Modern traditionalism:** reimagining traditional blocks through scale or shape.
- **Solid colored fabrics:** preference for solids over prints.



## Traditional Quilt

A traditional quilt uses regularly repeating shapes

Designs are based on a grid structure

### Quilt Blocks

- Blocks are pieced and may be simple or complex
- Often include familiar historical blocks
- Rows and columns typically repeat the same block

### Design Characteristics

- Emphasis on symmetry
- Uniform sashing and borders
- Planned and repetitive color placement



## “What is an Art Quilt?”

### Characteristics of Art Quilts

- Art quilts emphasize **design over function**, allowing for greater freedom and experimentation.
- Common styles include:
  - Abstract
  - Improvisational
  - Collage
  - Landscape or nature-inspired
  - Pictorial or portrait

### Techniques Commonly Used

- Painting
- Dyeing
- Stamping
- Piecing
- Collage
- Printing (including photos on fabric)
- Appliqué
- Embellishments and decorative stitching

### Intended Use and Size

- Usually designed as **wall hangings**, not bed quilts.
- Construction methods make them less suitable for everyday use.

