

COPYRIGHT POLICY FOR VICTORIA QUILTERS GUILD

Background

As quilters, we should understand how copyright laws apply to our activities so that we can maintain best practices and avoid copyright infringement.

Copyright of an original artistic work (such as an original quilt or quilt pattern) is automatically held by the creator or designer of the piece, no matter who owns the original quilt or the book, pattern or instruction sheets in which copyright material appears. Copyright applies from inception to 50 years after the death of the creator without any need to claim copyright or insert a copyright mark. Infringement of copyright can occur even when there is no financial gain by the person using someone else's copyright material.

The Victoria Quilters' Guild believes strongly that creators of patterns and quilts should be acknowledged. In some circumstances, it is also necessary to obtain written permission from the creators for anything more than "personal use". "Personal use" means that the quilt will be made to be used privately by the maker, shown at a quilt show (assuming there is no financial gain for winning), or given away. It does not include selling the quilt, using it as a fundraiser, or sharing it via the internet.

The quilting community is a sharing community and patterns are certainly made and sold by designers with the intention that purchasers will make quilts based on them. Be sure to read the copyright section of all source materials such as books or patterns and seek clarification if unsure about your entitlement for your intended use.

Best Practices

The Victoria Quilters' Guild encourages use by its members of best practices surrounding copyright including the following:

1. Use only your own version of original patterns, not unauthorized photocopies obtained from others.
2. If a quilt is made from another person's design, credit for that (as well as the maker) should appear on the quilt label. If another quiltmaker or quilt has inspired the piece, include that acknowledgement as well.
3. If you enter a quilt into a contest or show, credit the quilt designer (and sometimes the publisher of the book where it appears) and maker(s). Credit should be included on the application, any accompanying quilt show signage, and any images of the quilt.

4. If you are selling a quilt designed by someone else, it is customary to obtain permission in writing from the designer. In some cases, payment to that copyright holder may be required.
5. If a quilt is offered for a raffle or fundraiser, you must make every effort to obtain written permission from the designer.
6. If showing a quilt designed by someone else at the Guild's Show and Share, please give credit to the designer. (Quilts in the public domain – i.e., traditional patterns made more than 50 years ago – are exempt.) If another quiltmaker or quilt has inspired the piece, include that acknowledgement as well.
7. Teachers must not use copyrighted written materials from other teachers without written permission. This includes any photocopying of others' patterns or instructions. It is customary to ask permission to teach a technique or pattern developed by another quilter.
8. When sharing photographs on websites or social media, the maker and designer's names should be included.
9. Do not take or share photographs of copyrighted works when the copyright holder requests that no photographs be taken.
10. The foregoing practices should also be followed when basing a quilt substantially on a photograph or other artistic or print media taken by or designed by another person.

Further Information

The following links will provide members with additional useful information about copyright:

Copyright Act (R.S.C. 1985, c. C-42) which can be found at <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/Index.html>

How Copyright Affects the Quilter by Kathleen Bissett

<http://www.kathleenbissett.com/How%20Copyright%20Affects%20the%20Quilter.pdf>

C&T Publishing FAQs. Scroll down to look at Permissions and Submissions:

<https://www.ctpub.com/faqs/>

Entry Requirements for CQA National Juried Show. Scroll down to Entry Requirements and Rules.

<https://canadianquilter.com/call-for-entry-2023-national-juried-show/>