

# Rocky Mountain Quilt Festival

## A Huge Success

The 2008 Hoffman Challenge Winners & Traveling Collection Premiered in their Entirety for the First Time!

The first annual Rocky Mountain Quilt Festival, held August 23-24, 2008, in Loveland, CO, was a resounding success. More than two dozen vendors displayed all manner of quilting equipment, supplies and accessories for nearly 2,000 guests and volunteers. Over 550 items were on display, including quilts, crazy quilts, dolls, stumpwork, clothing, accessories and more.

Quilt and textile lovers traveled from as far as Arizona, California, Wyoming, Nebraska, Illinois and Wisconsin to see the once-in-a-lifetime display of the 2008 Hoffman Challenge. The Rocky Mountain Quilt Festival is the only place the entire Challenge can be seen at one time.

More than 360 of the items on display were part of The Hoffman Challenge, sponsored by Hoffman California-International Fabrics. Founded in 1924, Hoffman Fabrics has become a permanent leader in the busy world of textiles. The Hoffman Challenge, now in its 22nd year, is a premiere traveling quilt, clothing, and doll collection.

Among the hundreds of items on display were entries from such well-known artists as Christy Beckman, Patt Blair, Cindy Brick, Sara Broers Brown, Melody Randall, David Taylor and Cookie Warner, with a featured artist exhibit by Christine Dabbs. A number of nationally and internationally renowned teachers were also on hand to provide classes, including Marci Baker, Cindy Brick, Christine Dabbs, Paula Doll, Kathy Quinn and Susan Schrempf.

According to Kelly Gallagher-Abbott, curator of The Hoffman Challenge, the success of the 2008 festival has created quite a buzz in the mountain states' quilting community.

"From the reaction we have received, next year's Rocky Mountain Quilt Festival should easily attract over 4,000 people," she said.

Plans are now underway to expand the 2009 Festival to accommodate more quilt exhibits additional vendors to shop with! 🧵



## The Hoffman Challenge Celebrates 20 Years

Every year, a team from Hoffman Fabrics chooses an upcoming fabric design, and then issues a challenge to quilt, clothing, accessory, and doll makers to create original items using the fabric. The challenge curator and a group of assistants jury the entries, and then a team of judges selects the award winners.

The Hoffman Challenge has grown to be a premiere traveling quilt, clothing, and doll collection. The quality of entries and a growing number of exhibit requests have led to the establishment of additional traveling collections. Currently, 12 collections travel coast-to-coast within the USA and to several Canadian locations.

This year the Hoffman Challenge is celebrating its 22nd Anniversary. The Challenge started with 94 enthusiastic quilters, and some years the number of entries has grown to more than 800. In addition to the three quilt categories (pieced, appliquéd and mixed technique), new categories include clothing (wearable art), accessories, and dolls. While the majority of the entries come from the United States a wide variety of international entries are received. Each year, the top entries are grouped into traveling collections and visit quilt and fiber shows, seminars, quilt shops and quilt- and doll-makers guilds nationwide and in Canada.

For additional information on The Hoffman Challenge, visit the Web site [www.hoffmanchallenge.com](http://www.hoffmanchallenge.com). 🐾

### New Cosponsor for 2009 Hoffman Challenge:

**Sulky of America will now be a cosponsor for the Hoffman Challenge! There will be new award packages for the existing categories, plus Best Use of Sulky Awards!**



3rd Place Mixed Technique  
*"A Japanese Sampler, Family Style"*  
 35.5"H x 35.5"W  
 Nancy Lauer-Sipple, Vashon Island, WA



1st Place  
*"Garden High Tea" Bodice and Skirt*  
 Donna M. Brown  
 Laramie, WY



1st Place Pieced Quilts  
*"Just Being Happy"*  
 30"H x 30"W  
 Cathy Pilcher Sperry  
 West Chester, OH



1st Place Doll  
*"Madame Peacock"*  
 23"H x 7"Base  
 Patricia Wormuth  
 Applegate, OR



1st Place Applique  
*"The Winner's Circle"*  
 35"H x 29.25"W  
 Nancy B. Dickey  
 Magnolia, TX ▼

## 2008 Non-Hoffman Challenge

### VIEWERS' CHOICE AWARD WINNERS

**1st Place:** Sharon Schmidt  
*Sunbonnet Sue Throughout the Year*

**2nd Place:** A. J. Erwing  
*Loveland Beauty*

**3rd Place:** Mary McCauley  
*Dancing With the Moon*



*1st Place 2008 Non-Hoffman Challenge Viewers' Choice Award  
Sunbonnet Sue Throughout the Year  
by Sharon Schmidt*



*Photo provided with permission by artist.*

*1st Place Mixed Technique "Queen Of Hearts"  
43"H x 33"W  
Debra Gabel, Clarksville, MD*

*"The RMQF was a visual treat for all where, for the first time, every item juried to travel was shown in the same place. The incredible variety of talents and creativity become obvious, as no two entries look similar to each other. Treat yourself, and plan on visiting beautiful Northern Colorado next August for the wonderful show! We also cordially invite you to make an entry!"*  
—Kelly Gallagher-Abbott

## 2009 Rocky Mountain Quilt Festival August 22-23 in Loveland, CO

Please mark your calendars for next year - it's the only time all Hoffman Challenge award winners and every traveler are ever seen in one location!

For more information, visit:  
[www.rockymountainquiltfestival.com](http://www.rockymountainquiltfestival.com)

