Margaret Oppen Prize 2025
Roma Field Prize 2025
Terms and Conditions of Entry

Margaret Oppen and Roma Field were founding members of the Embroiderers' Guild NSW Inc. ('the Guild'). The Margaret Oppen Prize was initiated in the 1970s to foster the achievement of excellence in original embroidery design and technique. Today, the Margaret Oppen Prize is awarded for contemporary creative embroidery. The Roma Field Prize, first awarded in 2023, recognises the achievement of excellence in traditional embroidery design and technique.

Margaret Oppen was a driving force in promoting modern approaches to embroidery in NSW. She always encouraged individuals to express themselves by producing their own designs and adopting an experimental approach, while respecting and maintaining their traditions.

Roma Field was an outstanding embroiderer who was dedicated to encouraging embroiderers to achieve excellent results through learning and developing skills in traditional embroidery. She was President and Chairman of the Guild and later a Trustee. She taught traditional embroidery classes and judged competitions not only for the Guild but also for the Country Women's Association and the Royal Agricultural Society in New South Wales. Much of her embroidery appears in *A Lifetime of Embroidery* by Roma Field which was prepared and published by the St Ives Group of the Guild in 1980. This book would be a useful reference for embroiderers aspiring to win the Roma Field Prize and will help entrants understand the field of traditional embroidery. Several copies are in the Guild Library.

Entries are invited for the 2025 Margaret Oppen Prize and the 2025 Roma Field Prize. The fee for each entry is $25. An optional theme has been adopted for both prizes: **Black + White + 1**. Entrants who choose not to adopt this theme will not be disadvantaged in any way.

Judging categories for each competition are:

- General members
- Tutors and past winners

First prize in each category, if awarded, will be $500. Highly Commended certificates may be awarded at the judges' discretion.

In 2025, UNSW School of Art and Design is sponsoring a special award: a two-week residency at its Textiles Studio, Paddington. This will be awarded to the entrant who showcases exceptional innovation and creativity.

The winners will be announced at a function on 29 November 2025 and all entries will be exhibited in our gallery at 76 Queen Street Concord West until 28 January 2026.

Entry forms are due by 4pm Friday 24 October 2025 together with the Information Sheet and entry fee which can be paid either by direct deposit (preferred method: banking details are BSB 062146, account number 0090 2460) or by credit card.

Conditions

1. Entries must be an original design and the member's own work. Please abide by copyright legislation when designing your work. Entries can be inspired by other artists' work but not copied.
2. An Information Sheet is to be included with each entry. The Information Sheet requests basic information about your entry and requires that you include an Artist's Statement (maximum 100 words). This is an important component of your entry and must discuss the materials and technique(s) used. If another artist's work has been an important source of inspiration this should be acknowledged in the Artist's Statement.
3. Entrants are **not** required to indicate whether they feel their work is traditional or contemporary. Prizes will be awarded to the works that the judges consider are the most accomplished examples of traditional and contemporary embroidery, selected from the entire pool of entries.
4. The entrant must be a financial member of the Guild.
5. The work must have been completed since October 2022 and not previously exhibited, either at the Guild or elsewhere.
6. Each entrant may submit a maximum of two entries.
7. The maximum size per entry is:
    - 1.4 m x 1.4 m for two-dimensional entries
    - 50cm x 50cm x 50cm for three-dimensional or framed entries other than garments
    - Garments must be sized for display on a Guild mannequin.

    Note: Dimensions for two and three dimensional items are the maximum dimensions for any edge. The dimensions are **not** cumulative.
8. Works to be hung should preferably be compatible with the gallery's hanging system. This means works should have D-rings firmly attached to the work / frame. If you are concerned your work will not be able to be displayed in this way or requires a special hanging system, please contact our Gallery Manager (galleries@embroiderersguildnsw.org.au) before you submit your entry form. Works may also be displayed on a plinth 30 x 30cm or pinned to a board, on a mannequin or in a cabinet or, for table cloths, may be draped on a table.
9. **Entries should be delivered to the Guild Office at 76 Queen Street, Concord West no later than 4pm Friday 21 November 2025.**
10. Entrants are responsible for the postage and insurance costs (if required) both to and from the Guild.
11. Entries are to be packaged as follows;
    - Deliver or send your entry to the Guild Office in a padded bag. If you are submitting two entries, a separate padded bag is required for each entry.
    - Clearly label each padded bag with your name and phone number and the title of work.

- Include in the padded bag a photograph labelled with your name and the title of your entry for identification purposes. This does not have to be of high quality.
- Do not write your name on the work
- Tie or pin a swing tag with your name and title of your work securely to the work. This will be replaced by an entry number for judging so that the judges do not know who has entered each item.

12. The judges' decision will be final. Judging will be based on the following criteria:
    - Design (20%): concept of the embroidery and suitability for purpose.
    - Technique (20%): choice of technique and complexity of stitches.
    - Technical Skill (25%): quality of the embroidery and its execution.
    - Design realisation: (25%): achievement of the concept of the embroidery, suitability of materials and threads used and their colour/s.
    - Presentation (10%) the finish of the embroidery and its appropriateness to the work and its presentation.

    The judges will provide general feedback on the entries as a body of work.

13. Digital photos will be taken of the work for promotional, fund raising, insurance and archival purposes. Digital photos may be posted on the Guild's social media platforms.
14. All care will be taken with work submitted and works will be insured for loss or damage by the Guild while the works are in the Guild's care and custody.
15. Entrants may choose to offer their work for sale. A commission of 30% on any piece that is sold will be payable to the Guild. The price, including commission, will be nominated by the entrant at the time of submission of the entry.

Checklist 1: Entering the competition

- ☐ Terms and conditions read and understood
- ☐ Entry form completed
- ☐ Information Sheet is completed and included
- ☐ Payment made by direct payment or credit card
- ☐ Entry form, Information Sheet and payment submitted **no later than 4pm Friday 24 October 2025**

Checklist 2: Submitting entries

For each entry:

- ☐ Padded bag made as per Guild instructions
- ☐ Padded bag labelled with your name and phone number and title of work
- ☐ Work has swing tag securely attached with your name and title
- ☐ Name or initials **not** on the work itself
- ☐ Padded bag contains a photograph labelled with your name and the title of your entry
- ☐ If submitting your work by post, forward and return postage (and insurance where relevant) paid
- ☐ Padded bag submitted to arrive at the Guild **no later than 4pm Friday 21 November 2025**