**Steps for Entering a TFAM Exhibit**

1. **Intent to Enter**

The first step in entering a TFAM exhibit is to fill in the Intent to Enter form, which is your commitment to providing a piece of art for the show. The TFAM show organizer needs to know how many pieces will be in any exhibit ahead of time to book galleries and check out exhibition opportunities. There is a lot of work that goes on long before the artist even creates the artwork!

At this point you pay a fee. Your money is needed to pay the expenses associated with running the show: TFAM makes the hanging rods, produces signs and labels, purchases special hooks and bins, and moves the show from place to place. You pay in advance to secure your commitment. Sorry, you do not get your money back if you do not get your entry done. So, make a serious commitment before filling in an Intent to Enter form.

1. **Making Your Art**

Now is your time to create! The show organizers have given you some parameters to work with. A theme has been chosen to provide some cohesion to the show, so think about the theme and create something relating to it. (Please follow the size guidelines, as your work will not be accepted if it is the wrong size.)

You may also be given very specific directions for making your hanging sleeve. Remember, the show organizers make the hanging rods that need to fit into the sleeve and hang level. (When you have an opportunity to help hang a show you will realize how important it is that all the rods and hanging sleeves are the same.)

Unfortunately, TFAM cannot give you an extension. The call for entry and entry deadline are chosen to give you ample time to create. The show organizers need to receive all the work on time so they can organize it and get it to the first venue. This can be very time consuming! So please get your artwork in on time.

TFAM might ask for a drawstring bag with your name and artwork title on it. This is to protect and keep your art clean. It also helps with transporting, putting up and taking down a show.

1. **Entry Form**

The Entry Form needs to be filled in after you have had time to create. It is at this time that TFAM needs some information about you and your work. Please notice that the Entry Form and the Intent to Enter are different!

With the Entry Form TFAM, you need to provide the title and a SHORT artist statement for each art piece you are entering. This will go on a SMALL tag clipped to or beside your art. This is specific to each artwork and your chance to connect with a viewer to explain the feeling you are hoping to convey.

TFAM may want an *Artist’s Biography*. This is written in the third person even though you write it yourself. Keep it short please: every second quilt artist learned to sew from her grandmother, so you can leave that out. Tell us something that relates your life to your art.

TFAM may also want an *Artist’s Statement*. This is a generalized view of the artwork that you are entering in this exhibit. You get to tell the viewer where your inspiration came from, what your art means to you and why you liked doing this fibre art piece. You get to be personal here and call yourself ‘I’. (In other words, it is written in first person).

1. **Photos**

Some galleries want photos of the art before they will accept an exhibit and TFAM will use your photos for promotional material too. The best photos will be used for posters and postcards to advertise the show. There are on-line tutorials to help you take your best shots. Please crop your photos so only your artwork is in view. (That way no one will see how untidy your studio is!)

So that is it! Four steps and you will have a piece of artwork that you will be proud to display! TFAM exhibits are a wonderful way to display your artwork and help promote fibre art in Manitoba. Thanks for considering entering a TFAM exhibit.