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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ***OLFA NORTH AMERICA SPONSORING 2008 YOUNG DESIGNERS OKADA AWARD CONTEST***

HOUSTON, October 28, 2007—OLFA North America, a leading marketer and distributor of sewing and craft tools and accessories, is sponsoring its Second Annual OLFA Young Designers Okada Award, a national competition targeting aspiring quilters.

The competition, conducted under the auspices of the American Quilter's Society (AQS), is designed to inspire a next generation of quilters and is open to quilters ages 18 to 35. Competitors are invited to create a traditional or original quilt, using any quilt-making technique, in a unique interpretation. Finished quilts must be a minimum of 40 inches or more in width and in length.

Four prizes are offered: the Young Designers Grand Prize, worth \$5,000, and first-, second- and third-place winner prizes worth \$1,500, \$1,000 and \$500, respectively.

The OLFA contest is named for Yoshio Okada (1931-1990), the founder of OLFA and the inventor, among other innovative tools, of the rotary cutter, introduced in 1979, which revolutionized the quilting and craft industries.

Winners, who will be selected by a three-member AQS panel of award-winning quilters and quilting authors, will be honored by an OLFA representative before the 2008 AQS Quilt Show & Contest in Paducah, Kentucky, in April 2008.

Finished quilts must be a minimum 40 inches or more in width and in length.

MORE...

## *OLFA YOUNG DESIGNERS OKADA AWARD—2*

Quilts must have been finished between January 1, 2006 and January 1, 2008 and in excellent condition.

Complete OLFA Young Designers Okada Award rules and downloadable entry forms are available online at [www.olfacom.com](http://www.olfacom.com) and the AQS website, [www.AmericanQuilter.com](http://www.AmericanQuilter.com).

The timetable calls for submission of photographs or digital images of competing quilts by January 4, 2008. Contest finalists will be notified by March 5, 2008, and will be invited to submit actual samples to be received no later than April 7, 2008. Winners will be announced April 22, 2008, the day before the AQS Quilt Show begins.

Entry fee for AQS members is \$10; non-member fee is \$30.

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

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