

ARKANSAS CRAFT GUILD

Arkansas Craft Guild, Inc. d.b.a. Arkansas Craft Galleries
Arkansas Craft Guild Education and Support Association, Inc.

Applying For Artistic Membership

Thank you for your interest in becoming an artistic member of the Arkansas Craft Guild. This packet contains information about the Guild and about the jury process. It is meant to introduce you to the organization and to guide you through the application process.

The Arkansas Craft Guild was organized in 1960 to revive traditional crafts and to provide marketing opportunities for its members. The Guild has since expanded to encompass contemporary crafts and fine arts. Today the Guild operates a retail gallery in Mountain View, Arkansas, sponsors major annual craft fairs, provides for training and support of new and young artists, offers and coordinates programs of support for its members, and creates opportunities to publicly recognize the work of our members.

The Guild is guided by an eleven member Board of Directors elected at the membership meeting held annually in March. The Board employs a part time staff to maintain its central office in Mountain View and a Manager of the Arkansas Craft Gallery in Mountain View.

TO MAINTAIN OUR HIGH STANDARDS EACH MEMBER'S WORK IS RE-JURIED EVERY FIVE YEARS.

TO APPLY FOR ARTISTIC MEMBERSHIP

Each applicant must be a resident of the State of Arkansas. Resident is defined as any person who is domiciled with the state of Arkansas. Domicile denotes a permanent, established home as distinguished from a temporary, although actual, place of residence. Applicants may be asked to provide a current, valid Arkansas voter registration card, proof of state vehicle registration and/or a valid Arkansas driver's license for the State.

Work may be submitted for two media per applicant and must be designed and executed by the individual applying for membership. Husband and wife will be considered an individual with one vote. A "center", understood as an individual artist responsible for design, quality control, and direct supervision of paid employees, will be considered one membership.

The completed application must arrive at the Guild office by **April 10th** or **August 10th** and must include:

- Five (5) examples of your work per medium and should include your best "showcase" art.
- The completed membership application sheet.
- The completed Information sheet.
- A biographical statement of approximately one half to three quarters page written to be used by the gallery to distribute to customers who ask for information about the artist and to be included on the Guild's webpage.
- Five digital images of your work and one of yourself, preferably at work in your studio, to be used on the website and to prepare artist presentation sheets for the gallery.
- Two checks: one for the \$15 non-refundable jury fee and one for \$60 which covers the annual dues for the current year and a \$10 Guild stock certificate. This \$60 check will be returned to the applicant if the membership application is unsuccessful.

STANDARD GUIDELINES

Entries are judged on craftsmanship, design, quality, appropriateness of materials, and the detailed explanation of the artistic process. The Guild accepts handmade (defined as using hand tools or hand directed machine tools), high quality traditional and contemporary functional and decorative crafts and fine art. The Guild does not accept commercially manufactured products or items manufactured from molds or kits, toxicity in a finished piece, or non-original designs unless the designs are clearly label as a reproduction.

The guidelines listed below are the minimum standards required of applicant's work as well as current Guild members' work. Media or products not specifically listed are expected to adhere to the general guidelines regarding workmanship and originality.

- **Basketry:** Functional baskets are to be made from natural materials with sturdy handles, firmly attached, and of a weave appropriate to the style of the basket. Dyed materials must not discolor the hands or fabrics that come in contact with the basket. Non-functional baskets may be of other materials and should display originality of design, and mastery of weaving and other basketry techniques.
- **Broom making:** Functional or decorative brooms of appropriate materials, securely bound.

- **Calligraphy:** Individually handcrafted with grace and consistency in lettering, artistic arrangement on the page, and good craftsmanship in assembly (mat cutting, etc.). Must be ready to hang or use, framed or shrink-wrapped to prevent damage.
- **Candle making:** May be of any appropriate wax or soy formula. Molds used must be crafted by the applicant. Tapers made from rolled wax sheets may be one of several products, but not the sole product of an individual.
- **Carding and spinning:** Natural fibers only. Fibers should be well cleaned and carded. Spun fibers should be consistently spun. "Novelty yarns" or purposely irregularly woven strands are acceptable. Dyed fibers should be labeled as to type of dye used. Natural dyes are strongly encouraged.
- **Clothing:** All clothing must be designed and constructed by the applicant. Seams, raw edges and other construction elements should be finished appropriate to the fabric used. Embellishments should be original in design and executed by the applicant. Commercial appliquéés are not acceptable as major elements.
- **Doll making:** Clothing, accessories, and body forms should be hand-made by the applicant. Ceramic components should be hand designed, cast, decorated and fired by the applicant. Fabric components should be designed by the applicant. Use of commercial molds or patterns is prohibited. NOTE: Materials in children's toys should not include buttons or items that can be swallowed; if they do, doll must be labeled, "Not for Children under Three Years".
- **Dried flower arranging:** Over 50% of the arrangement (including the base) must be foraged from the wild, homegrown, or hand-made by the artist. NO PURCHASED OR SILK FLOWERS.
- **Enameling:** Applicant must display their mastery of firing techniques and technical skills in this medium. Enamels should be fired to maturity and surfaces should reflect proper finishing techniques. The work should reflect original design. Set into jewelry, the standards regarding jewelry also apply. Set into other objects, the appropriate medium guidelines apply.
- **Gem cutting (lapidary):** Stones should be individually hand cut by the craft-artist, well-shaped with no visible scratches and well-polished.
- **Glass (blown):** No rough edges; punts should be properly smoothed and not too deep. Functional items should function as designed and have smooth bottoms, lids that fit, and comfortable handles.
- **Glass (etched):** No commercial patterns; must be the artist's original designs and executed by applicant.
- **Glass (stained):** Consistent lead or copper foil work (smooth and even). Hanging devices must be well-integrated. Other media (stone, seashells, etc.) may be incorporated into work; however imitation stained glass is not acceptable. No commercial patterns or kits.
- **Glass (fused):** Designs should be original. Jewelry items should have no rough edges or points that would come in contact with skin or garments and must comply with the general jewelry standards regarding overall quality of the piece, originality and the prohibition of purchased elements used as focal points.
- **Glass (lamp work):** Lamp work beads should display originality of design. They may be incorporated into jewelry or other items as a focal point. When incorporated into jewelry, lamp work beads must comply with the general jewelry standards regarding overall quality of the piece, originality and the prohibition of purchased elements used as focal points.
- **Jewelry, metal:** May be fabricated or cast. Casts must be from artist's original design. Stone settings must be secure and neatly finished. No rough edges in contact with wearer's skin. Pieces must fit comfortably. No commercial findings or purchased elements will be the focal point of any piece. Originality is stressed. Clasps and other findings must be securely attached.
- **Jewelry, beaded:** Loom weaving of beads is acceptable. Designs must be original. Strung beads MUST contain a hand-made focal point, bead or pendant made by the applicant. Pieces made from only purchased components are not acceptable. Handmade elements will be judged by the criteria of the medium, i.e. glass, metal, wood, etc.
- **Leatherworking:** Functional work should be colorfast, well-designed, and functionally secure; evenly cut and sewn; properly tooled, edged, and finished. Roller-pressed designs cannot be the focal point. Quality of materials will be closely scrutinized. Decorative work will be evaluated for workmanship. Decorative elements must be original in design. No kits.
- **Metal work:** Objects made from cast, fabricated, formed, etched, or welded metals. Objects should be properly welded or joined; moving parts should move freely; pieces designed to be held should be comfortable to hold. Burrs should be removed and rough and sharp edges smoothed. Finish should not come off on customer's hands or clothes.
- **Musical instruments:** Should be in tune, well-constructed and smoothly finished. Tuning and care instructions should be included with all instruments.
- **Needlework:** All work finished on both sides; stitches should be uniform and under correct tension. The quality and appropriateness of the fabric will be considered. Designs should be original and executed by the

applicant. 2-D works should be appropriately mounted and protected for display. No commercially manufactured designs or printed fabric pictures may be used as the basis for a piece. Garment blanks are discouraged unless constructed by the applicant.

- **Paper:** Hand crafted paper should be professionally executed and presented.
- **Photography:** Photographer must show a knowledge of and competency in use of tools and techniques in both their image capture and printing processes. Prints should represent the photographer's mastery of composition, exposure, depth of field and lighting. Uniqueness in subject is encouraged. The fine print must be printed by the artist, mounted to conservation standards and suitable for display and sale. Commercially reproduced prints are not permitted.
- **Pottery:** Hand-made pottery techniques, i.e., wheel, slab, coil, etc., are acceptable. Utilitarian ware should function as designed and have smooth bottoms, lids that fit, and comfortable handles. Glazes should fit well (without crazing) and lead glazes should only be used on decorative pieces, which **MUST** be labeled.
- **Print making:** Original must be designed and executed by the artist. The plate or stone must be etched or engraved by the artist and the print must be hand-pulled by the artist. Works should be framed for hanging or protected and matted for bin portfolio presentation
- **Quilting:** Traditional or contemporary designs are acceptable. Good color combinations, even stitches, and properly finished pieces. Commercially manufactured pieced quilts or appliquéd imitation fabric pictures are unacceptable. Kits are not permitted.
- **Sculpture:** Works are to be original in concept and design. Works should display the artist's competency with and knowledge of their medium. Open and limited editions must be appropriately inscribed or labeled.
- **Soaps, lotions, skin care products**
These items must be hand mixed and packaged by the applicant. It is not sufficient to add a fragrance to a commercial product and label as own. Containers must be clearly labeled with ingredients. Product will be evaluated for texture, ease of application, feel of product on skin and packaging.
- **Surface enrichment:** Must be original designs and patterns.
 - **China Painting:** China paint must be properly applied to finished china, and kiln fired after painting.
 - **Silk Screening:** Original must be designed and executed by the artist. Screens must be hand-made and the print must be hand-pulled by the artist. Purchased sweatshirt, T-shirt blanks, scarf or other appropriate may be used.
 - **Tie-Dye:** Must be properly prepared and finished with professional quality dyes. Purchased T-shirt, scarf or other appropriate blanks may be used.
 - **Batik:** Must be well designed and executed.
 - **Gourd Painting:** Must be well designed and executed.
 - **Pyrography:** Must be well designed and executed.
 - **Other enrichment:** Must be original in design and executed by the applicant. Should display competency in medium.
- **Toys:** Durability and smooth surfaces are important. Toys should not have any part that could be a potential hazard to a child. No buttons or small parts on toys for children under three. Toys containing small parts must be labeled "Not for Children under Three Years". No toxic materials.
- **Two dimensional art (painting, drawing and mixed media):**
Work must be original in concept, design and execution. Applicant is expected to display knowledge of techniques, and competency in the medium. Works should be framed or gallery-wrapped ready for hanging or protected and matted for bin portfolio presentation.

NOTE: a 2-D artist must submit 5 pieces for each desired medium, i.e. oil, acrylic, pastel, graphite, mixed media, reproductions, etc. Only accepted media may be shown in guild shops or shows.

- **Note: reproductions of two dimensional art**

Only original works will be considered for admission to Guild. However, Guild sponsored shops and shows permit the sale of reproductions of an artist's original work. Signed and numbered or open edition reproductions of artists' original works must be appropriately labeled. Works should be framed and ready for hanging or protected and matted for bin portfolio presentation. For Guild purposes reproduction means any mechanically reproduced copy of an artist's original work – this includes lithograph, digital prints (giclee or inkjet), and photocopies, etc.

Reproductions for sale through the guild may only be copies of the medium in which you are juried. For example; if you are juried for oils and acrylics, you may not display reproductions of pastel or graphite works.

Poorly executed reproductions are not suitable for sale at any guild venue. Poor quality works will be returned to the artist or, if at a show, the artist will be asked to remove the work from display.

- **Weaving:** Even selvages, good finish, and quality yarns. Weave should fit the project. Garments must be constructed by the weaver. Should be pre-shrunk and include washing instructions.
- **Woodworking:** The design, construction techniques, finish and materials used in turned, laminated and constructed objects must be appropriate for their intended use.. The finish should have no drips, runs, or cloudiness. Designs must allow for natural wood movement. Workmanship should display mastery of joinery and all other applicable construction techniques. Toys or items that come into contact with food must have a non-toxic finish. No commercial patterns or kits are permitted. No purchased component may be the focal point of a piece.
- **Woodcarving:**
Carved objects must display a mastery of carving techniques. Originality in design is encouraged and the use of commercial patterns is prohibited. Carving on commercially prepared blanks is not allowed. If a carving is used as the focal point of another object, the standards for that object's medium also apply.
- **Any other work:** Shall be subject to the general standards or workmanship, master of media and design excellence.
- **NOTE: THE FOLLOWING WILL NOT BE ALLOWED:**
liquid embroidery; commercially printed articles; commercial exhibits; commercially molded articles; commercially made molds; commercial patterns may be used; items from kits or items assembled from pre-manufactured components; commercially manufactured items or resale items; plastic or commercial findings as the focal point of any piece; imported items; unfinished products; toxic or hazardous materials; decorated purchased objects, i.e., purchased baskets decorated with bows and/or silk flowers; purchased garment blanks, i.e., appliqué or Battenberg lace inserts (exception: see "Surface Enrichment")

SHIPMENT OF JURY ITEMS

Artists may hand deliver the application packet with samples and other items to the Guild office. Or if your packet is to be shipped to:

Arkansas Craft Guild
Attn: Standards Committee
104 E. Main Street. PO Box 800
Mountain View, Arkansas 72560.

In the event of an unsuccessful application, the artist is responsible for the necessary fees to return the samples.

NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS OF THE APPLICANTS REVIEW

The applicant will receive written notification of the results of his application, a membership card, and a stock certificate from the President of the Board of Directors within two weeks following the meeting of the Board. Results are confidential and not available over the phone or by e-mail.

BENEFITS OF GUILD ARTISTIC MEMBERSHIP

1. Voice and vote in the Annual Membership Meeting.
2. Consignment sales in the Arkansas Craft Gallery in Mountain View, Arkansas.
3. Guaranteed acceptance and the current members' booth fee discount at all Guild shows including the Annual Christmas Showcase in Little Rock.
4. Inclusion in the Guild list of artists to be sent private gallery managers who request names of artists to be included in their inventory.
5. Free use of the Mountain View gallery for artist's receptions and showing of new work.
6. Individual artist's webpage on the Guild's website.
7. Participation in all the training and support programs of the Guild at no cost or members' discounted participation fee.
8. The monthly Guild e-newsletter.
9. Access to information regarding management of art sales, production and improvement of art work, and calls for craft fair vendors.

FURTHER QUESTIONS OR MORE INFORMATION:

Arkansas Craft Guild
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Guild Website:
www.arkansascraftguild.org