



## Arkansas Craft Guild Standards

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### Arkansas Craft Guild Standards:

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 labeled as a reproduction.

Entries are judged on the following criteria and the specific standards for their craft:

- **Quality of Craftsmanship** --Craftsmanship should demonstrate a high level of skill with the medium. Work should show attention to detail: surfaces should be well-finished, connections and joints well-executed. Examples: stitching should be even; lip of ceramic cup should be smooth.
- **Design/composition** - The pieces should have visual appeal and interest. The appearance should be appropriate for the medium and piece. The body of work should represent cohesiveness.
- **Creativity/Originality**— The work should show originality and creativity in their ideas and/or use of materials. Faithful replica of traditional design is also acceptable. Copies of others' original designs, commercial patterns and molds are not allowed. The work should have a sense of originality. The body of work should display a recognizable style unique to the applicant.
- **Material Use**—Quality and type of Material(s) should be appropriate for the craft and must be used in a way appropriate to the craft. Materials should be durable (as required). Examples: appropriate gauge of wire, woods used for cutting board are appropriate. Care and use instructions should be provided (where applicable.) Materials used should be identified.
- **Detailed explanation of the artistic process**--prospective artist must describe how they create their work, their techniques and materials involved in their craft.

Work submitted for jurying must have been created by the artist within the 3 years immediately prior to the application.

Each area is given a rating of 1-5 from the jury members. Total scores from each jury member will be averaged for the final score. An average score of 20 or above is required for acceptance. If any category has less than 3, the applicant will not be accepted. The jury will provide feedback to all applicants.

The Standards 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 standards regarding workmanship and originality.

Note: Poorly executed items 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.



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**Categories:** (If an artist's work does not fit into a defined area, it may be evaluated using the general criteria and the "Other Work" category.)

**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. Materials used should be identified.

**Broom making:** Functional or decorative brooms of appropriate materials, securely bound. Care and use instructions must be provided.

**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. Materials description is encouraged.

**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 only product produced by an applicant. Materials used should be identified.

**Digital Artwork, including Digital Photography:** The finished composition must be original to the artist and not rely on found or adapted components of other's work as the focal point. The artist may make the composition using digital components of their own original work and photography as the focal point. Artist must demonstrate an ability to envision an original design as well as execute creating it. Artist must be able to explain their process and how they created the digital work including any programs they used. Works must be presented for sale in finished form. (\*\*see Photography)

**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". Care and cleaning instructions must be provided

**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. Flower/material types should be identified. Care and cleaning instructions must be provided.

**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. Mediums/materials should be identified.



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**Fiber Arts:** Designs should be original and executed by the applicant

- **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 appliqués are not acceptable as major elements. Fiber/material types should be identified on label, along with care instructions.
- **Crochet, Knitting, Tatting, etc.:** All work should be finished on both sides; stitches should be uniform and under correct tension, ends woven in or otherwise finished as to be unnoticeable. Edges should be even. Materials must be identified as to type (cotton, acrylic, wool). Natural fibers are preferred and good quality yarns or threads are required. Garments should be labelled with care instructions.
- **Felting:** Felted items should be well-felted, with an original design. Kits and commercial designs are not allowed. Material content and care instructions must be included. If the felted item is part of another category, it should meet the criteria for that category as well.
- **Needlepoint, Embroidery, etc.:** All work finished on both sides; stitches should be uniform and under correct tension. 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. Original machine embroidery is allowed. Materials must be identified as to type (cotton on linen, silk, etc.). Care instructions to be provided as appropriate.
- **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. Material content (cotton, etc.) and care instructions must be included.
- **Rugs:** Rugs should be durable and well-constructed. May not be made from a commercial pattern or design, but must be the artists' original design.
- **Weaving:** Fabric should have good finish, and be made from quality materials. Weave should fit the project. Garments must be constructed by the weaver. Material content and care instructions must be included.
- **Yarn:** Spun fibers should be consistently spun. "Novelty yarns" or purposely irregular strands are acceptable. Dyed fibers should be labeled as to type of dye used. Fiber type(s) and care instructions should be identified on the label.

**Gem cutting** (lapidary): Stones should be individually hand cut by the craft-artist, well-shaped with no visible scratches and well-polished. Stones should be identified as to material type and quality.

**Glass:** Care and cleaning of product must be included.

- **Blown Glass:** 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.
- **Etched Glass:** No commercial patterns; must be the artist's original designs and executed by applicant. Edges should be smooth and finished. Etching of commercial glass products is allowed.



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- **Stained Glass:** 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.
- **Fused Glass:** 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.
- **Lampwork Glass:** 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:** 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. Stone settings must be secure and neatly finished. General materials used (sterling silver, earwire material, stone types) must be identified.

- **Beaded:** Loom weaving of beads is acceptable. Designs must be original.
- **Metal:** May be fabricated or cast. Casts must be from artist's original design.
- **Other:** Other materials may be used for jewelry, including but not limited to polymer clay, wood, glass, metal clays, natural stones, concrete, silk, leather, etc. Requirements for originality, findings, security of clasps and comfortable fit apply.
- **Strung beads:** A minimum of 50% of the beads must be handmade by the artist. 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. No commercial acrylic or plastic beads are allowed in the product.

**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. Type of leather (deer, cowhide, etc.) must be identified and care instructions supplied.

**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. Metal types must be identified (steel, copper, etc.) and care and cleaning instructions supplied.

**Mixed Media:** The finished composition must be original to the artist and not rely on found or adapted components of others' work as the focal point. The artist may make the composition using digital components of their own original work and photography as the focal point. 2D Collage and 3D Assemblage is produced by using more than one material. It must have a sturdy foundation that adequately supports the rest of the artwork. Assembly of the work must be well done with all parts



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securely affixed. Work must exhibit an ingenious use of materials, creating a cohesive design or image. Lasting materials or archival materials must be used. (\*\*see 2D Art category)

**Musical instruments:** Should be tunable or in tuned as appropriate, well-constructed and smoothly finished. The instrument type, materials used and playing and care instructions should be included with all instruments.

**Paper:** Hand crafted paper should be professionally executed and presented. Kits are not allowed. Materials used should be identified.

**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 and be printed on archival materials. Uniqueness in subject is encouraged. The fine print must be mounted to conservation standards and suitable for display and sale. Subject and/or location must be identified. (\*\*see Digital Artwork)

**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. No premade commercial forms are to be used. Care and use instructions must be supplied.

**Printmaking:** 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. Materials used (acrylic ink on paper, etc.) should be identified.

**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. Materials used must be identified. (\*\*see Mixed Media)

### **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. Packaging must be appropriate for the product and containers must be clearly labeled with ingredients and usage recommendations. Product will be evaluated for texture, ease of application, feel of product on skin and packaging as well as ingredients used.

**Surface enrichment:** Must be from original designs and patterns and executed by the artist.

- **Batik:** Must be well-designed and executed. Material base should be identified, garments should have care labels.
- **China Painting:** China paint must be properly applied to finished china, and kiln fired after painting.
- **Gourd Painting:** Finishes should be durable. Care and cleaning instructions should be provided.



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- **Pyrography:** Must be well-designed, executed and finished. Designs should be original—no patterns are allowed.
- **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 bases may be used. Material content should be identified and garments should have care labels.
- **Tie-Dye:** Must be properly prepared and finished with professional quality dyes. Purchased T-shirt, scarf or other appropriate blanks may be used. Material content should be identified and garments should have care labels. Dyes should be colorfast and not come off on wearer's skin.
- **Other enrichment:** Must be original in design and executed by the applicant. Should display competency in medium and meet all enrichment guidelines.

**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. Base materials should be identified (wood, clay, etc.)

**Two-dimensional art (painting, drawing and Mixed Media\*\*see above):** 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. Medium(s) used must be identified on a label attached to or to be shown with the work.

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 shows or in the Gallery.

**Note reproductions of two dimensional art:**

Only original works will be considered for admission to Guild. However, Guild shows and the Gallery 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.

(\*\*see Digital Artwork)

**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 and washing/care instructions. No commercial patterns or kits are permitted. No purchased component may be the focal point of a piece. Wood type(s) used must be identified.



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- **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. Wood type(s) used must be identified. Carved objects should be signed by the artist.
- **Wood turning:** Turned objects must display a mastery of turning techniques. Originality in design is encouraged and the use of commercial patterns is prohibited. Wood type(s) must be identified. Turned objects should be signed by the artist if possible. Quality commercial components are allowed (pen workings, etc.) but should be integral to the function of the piece.

**Other work:** Work that does not fit into the above categories shall be subject to the general criteria of standards and workmanship, master of media and design excellence.

• **NOTE: THE FOLLOWING WILL NOT BE ALLOWED:**

Liquid embroidery; commercially printed articles (excluding photographic prints from an artist's original) ; commercial exhibits; commercially molded articles; commercially made molds; items made from commercial patterns; 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; 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"), materials from life forms (animal or vegetable) considered endangered or threatened, or such items that are against the law to collect.