



*League of N.H. Craftsmen*

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Botanicals

### Standards Criteria for Botanicals

League standards for dried floral and herbal arrangements require that the materials used be fundamentally transformed, resulting in finished work which demonstrates technical fluency, integrity of intent and result and a spirited sense of personal vision.

The consideration of dried arrangements as a League juried craft refers to the entire process of growing, preserving and designing. The emphasis is on hand processing and individual design. Jurors will expect to see examples of work showing proficiency in growing, preserving, and assembling dried plant materials. A heavy reliance on commercial materials and trimming, such as ribbons, bows or commercial components will not be considered appropriate.

A harmony of intent, process and result is the measure of successful work.

#### Technical Considerations:

1. Construction methods such as twining, wiring and wrapping are encouraged.
2. While use of glue is not encouraged, it may sometimes be an appropriate method of construction. If glue is used, its use must be carefully controlled and hidden.
3. While floral arrangement is an aspect of this craft, the League looks for, and strongly encourages, work with an individual and personal perspective. The jurors always look for a special presence, unique to the individual maker, which sets the work apart.
4. The balance of color is of great importance, as are the forms and shapes of the plant material, and overall composition of the piece.
5. This craft has both aesthetic and technical considerations. Unlike many other crafts, dried arrangements are not permanent. The League expects that craftspeople will be knowledgeable about the growing habits of plants and skills needed to preserve the materials, and to maximize their durability and color retention.
6. Structural components, such as wreath forms, must be of highest quality, and be carefully camouflaged.

#### Use of bases:

1. In arrangements where the supporting base (bowl, vase, basket, etc.) is a significant visual component of the piece as a whole, the base must be the work of a juried League craftsman.

2. In arrangements where the base is primarily hidden, and is used exclusively to support the dried arrangement, the base must be simple and of good quality. No commercially made baskets may be used.

#### Truth in Labeling:

Work made by the individual state juried craftsperson may be personally signed or stamped. Craftspeople are encouraged to permanently sign or stamp their work, and to provide supplemental materials that educate the public on craft and process. Labeling must comply with League state and juried standards.

### **LNHC Standards Guidelines for Juried Work - Applicable to all media categories**

#### Aesthetic Considerations

The work must demonstrate more than technical proficiency and more than the reproduction of a recognized style. Products should express the personal aesthetic and vision of the maker and demonstrate a coherent stylistic development, with every attention to detail, design, function, and finish. A harmony of intent, process, and result is the measure of successful work.

#### Components and Accessories

Components or accessories are parts that are not made in the studio of the juried LNHC member, which are incorporated into craft objects. Such components and/or accessories are acceptable and appropriate only if: they are of high quality construction and materials; they do not visually dominate the finished object; and they would not be reasonably interpreted, based upon appearance, as objects created by juried LNHC members.

#### Commercial Production Techniques

The League's focus is on work made by hand by individual craftspeople. Commercial production methods used solely for speed or high volume are not acceptable by LNHC Standards, although exceptions may be made. Craftspeople who utilize machine assisted production methods must maintain an extremely high level of originality and expressiveness of design. The juried craftsperson must create the imagery, color choices, and design.

#### Health and Safety Guidelines

The craftsperson is responsible for assurance that craftwork meets all federal, state, and local health and safety requirements.