



League of NH Craftsmen
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NHCRAFTS.ORG

The League of New Hampshire Craftsmen consider three primary areas of expertise for State Jury status. As well as technical proficiency and aesthetics, the jurors evaluate "**Spirit of the Maker**".

Spirit of the Maker is what makes each craftsperson's work truly their own.

Spirit of the Maker goes beyond technique and shows attention to detail in every aspect of the work.

Spirit of the Maker is the catalyst that brings technical proficiency and aesthetics to life.

Spirit of the Maker is respect; respect for materials and tools; respect for those who have helped nurture and inspire you and for those who you will help nurture and inspire in the future.

Spirit of the Maker is part dedication, part humanity, part personal vision and all important.

Spirit of the Maker is the heartfelt need to simply make good art. Your creations must come from the heart if you want them to work.

STANDARDS CRITERIA FOR CLAY

League standards for work in clay require that the ceramic materials be fundamentally transformed by the ceramist/potter, resulting in finished work that demonstrates technical fluency, integrity of intent and a spirited sense of personal vision.

The League does not draw a hard and fast line between "utilitarian" and "art" ceramics. Clay is a craft material of great expressive power, and the primary function of a ceramic object may be expressive or decorative, rather than utilitarian.

TECHNICAL GUIDELINES: Thrown and Hand Built Work

1. Forms should reflect a strong, consistent, and original stylistic development. Applicant should present a body of work (6-12 pieces) that demonstrates range in ability.
2. Glazing and decoration should fit and enhance the form in a way that is integral to the function and expression of the piece.
3. Thickness of clay should be in proportion and harmony with the form and function of the piece. Each piece should be finished inside and out

The following guidelines refer to functional work:

1. On surfaces which come into contact with food the clay and glaze should be fired to maturity and fit each other without excessive crazing, pitting, crawling or shivering.
2. Handles and surfaces which come into contact with food or furniture should be without sharp edges.
3. Attachments should be physically strong. Handles, spouts, and lids should function well.
4. Any purchased parts must be of high quality and not dominate the work (i.e.: lamp parts, bamboo handles, clockworks, etc.).
5. For health and safety reasons, all glazes on food containers must comply with Federal standards.

Commercial Production Techniques:

The League's focus is on work made by hand by individual craftspeople. Commercial production methods used solely for high volume are not acceptable for League standards, though exceptions may be made, especially if the following criteria are met.

1. The finished product is best made by this particular method, with a higher aesthetic and technical quality resulting than if made by hand.
2. The work has an extremely high level of originality and expressiveness in design.
3. The model for the master mold is made by the state juried craftspeople.
4. All guidelines for thrown and hand-built work apply.
5. Ram pressed, jigged and unaltered cast work may be reviewed in the workplace whenever deemed necessary by the standards system to determine ongoing suitability of the work for state juried status.
6. Items are numbered and limited in quantity.
7. Unaltered items are clearly marked in clay as cast or molded pieces.

Truth in Labeling:

State juried 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 Juried Standards. Craftspeople must comply with any specific legal requirements for labeling their craft.

Standards Guidelines for Juried Work - Applicable to all media categories

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.

Health and Safety Guidelines

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