

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 FELTED WORKS

League standards for felted works require that the materials be fundamentally transformed by the craftsperson, resulting in finished work, which demonstrates technical fluency, integrity of intent and result, and a spirited sense of personal vision.

A successful felted piece is made from materials appropriate for its primary function, whether decorative or utilitarian. The League accepts both wet-felted and needle-felted, including wearables, decorative accessories, and functional and non-functional objects.

Technical Guidelines:

1. The finished product must be made from high quality materials suitable for the intended purpose. Enhancements to the finished piece (hanging supports, garment findings, purchased components and embellishments) should be well made and not dominate the work.
2. Mastery of felting techniques is required whether work is wet felted, or needle felted. This includes:
 - a. Even layering reflecting intent of the piece. (Overly thin places, holes or folds should be part of the design and not accidental.)
 - b. Felt should be sufficiently hardened for the intended use. Clothing should be felted hard enough to resist abrasion and pilling; decorative pieces should be hard enough to hold up over time. Felted fiber should not be loose or easily pulled apart.
 - c. The type of fiber used should be appropriate to the function of the piece. The felt maker should be aware of the characteristics of the fibers used and how the characteristics affect the felting and use of the piece.
 - d. If used in the felt, the choice of fabric, thread and other materials must be an appropriate match to the weight and use of the piece and the intent of the craftsman. When felting on silk or other fabrics the fiber should become integrated in to the felt sufficiently so that it cannot be pulled loose. When inlaying other materials such as decorative yarns, fabric pieces and silk the inlayed pieces should be integrated into the felt sufficiently so that they cannot be pulled loose.
 - e. Surface design techniques on felt and fabrics (nuno) the fibers and materials used in felting should show mastery of technique. This includes painting,

- stenciling, shibori, appliqué, stamping, batik, etc. Materials and fabrics used should complement the process being applied.
- f. All dyes or textile paints used in felting must be properly heat or steam set and washed.
 - g. All seams and edges should be finished intentionally and purposefully. Seams may be lapped and felted, or stitched, or another intentional and purposeful method. Seamless resist felted pieces should not have ridges unless integral to the design.
 - h. With garments, consideration must be given to thickness and drape of the felt.
 - i. Consideration should be given to the precision of the corners of machine or hand stitched pieces when the intent is to be accurate.
3. All pieces must be suitably prepped before use. Felt should be wear ability tested according to purpose. All washing instructions should be thoroughly tested. As appropriate, finished objects should be pressed, dry-cleaned, or steamed.
 4. The work should show originality and personal expression, as well as mastery of technique.
 5. Backing materials for finished objects should complement the piece and not be of a lesser quality, functionally or aesthetically.
 6. Care labels must be clear and detailed, listing fabrics, techniques used, and care instructions.

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