



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 KNITTING

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

The League accepts both traditional styles and contemporary innovation in patterns and yarn. Basic knitting patterns for shape and style are permissible, however, the selection of yarns and knitting will determine the individual styling and personal involvement in the piece.

The work must demonstrate more than technical proficiency, more than the reproduction of a recognized style; it 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.

Technical Guidelines:

1. Applicants should present a body of work (6-12 pieces) that demonstrates the range and mastery of work intended for the League.
2. Knitted pieces should have even and consistent stitches which lay flat without tension and puckering. Good quality yarn appropriate in weight for the project is recommended.
3. Yarn attachments should be unnoticeable and interwoven into the knitting texture, with no knots left in the knitting.
4. Seams must be sewn securely, inconspicuously, and be appropriate to the yarn weight used in the garment. Buttons for cardigan sweaters should be appropriate and fit the buttonholes. Zippers should be hand sewn in place. Any purchased parts must be of high quality.
5. Finished work should be blocked.
6. Long floats can pull and distort pattern, so carrying yarn for color changes in a pattern should be safely secured.
7. Each piece should be finished inside and out.

8. Tags or labels must list fiber content and care instructions.

Machine Knitting:

The League's focus is on work made by hand by individual knitters. However, exceptions may be made if the knitting machine is used as a creative tool and not merely for speed or volume. The following criteria must be met:

1. All guidelines for hand knitting also apply to machine knitting, especially that high quality yarn is used.
2. The creative potential of the knitting machine should be apparent in the finished work. The work should have an extremely high level of originality and expressiveness in design.
3. Tags and/or labels must accurately reflect the method of production and craftspeople.

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 League 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 craftspeople must create the imagery, color choices, and design.

Truth in Labeling:

Work produced by the state-juried member may be individually signed or stamped; craftspeople are encouraged to permanently sign or stamp their work. Labeling must comply with legal requirements and with LNHC Standards Guidelines as specified for each media category.

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.