



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 METAL CASTING

Standards Criteria for Casting apply to two categories of League members.

The first category is comprised of members whose castings comprise their total body of work and therefore must do their own casting.

The second category is comprised of members who use casting techniques as an adjunct to their primary method of creating their body of work. It is permissible to outsource the casting, but all the finishing work must be done by the craftsmen.

All craftsmen must complete three successful shipment reviews in which they submit their handcrafted work and the casting of that work for review before the work is exhibited and marketed in League venues. After this, these juried members may choose to specialize in casting, exclusively (following League guidelines), or in combining casting with other methods of creating.

League guidelines for casting require that the materials used be fundamentally transformed by the maker/jeweler/sculptor resulting in work which demonstrates technical fluency, integrity of intent and result, and spirited sense of personal vision.

Technical Guidelines:

1. Forms should reflect a strong, consistent, and original stylistic development.
Applicant should present a body of work that demonstrates range and technical ability.
2. Each piece should demonstrate that attention has been paid to all surfaces, including the back surface.
3. Connections (both hot and cold) should be physically strong.
4. The work should be durable and well made so that it has a reasonable life span when used for its intended purpose.
5. The joining, fitting and finishing of any parts should be the result of conscious decision and control by the juried member.

6. Any fire scale problems must be resolved. Solder joins are clean.
7. Any purchased parts must be of high quality and be well integrated in the work. Findings should be of high quality, function properly, and be compatible with the materials in the piece.

Commercial Production Techniques:

The League's focus is on work made by hand by individual craftspeople. Commercial production techniques used solely for high volume output may prove unacceptable 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 original models for any master molds are produced solely through the concept and hand of the juried craftsman.
4. All guidelines for hand fabricated work apply.
5. For the second category of craftsmen, cast parts must be identified and be a lesser portion of the overall body of work.
6. Should methods substantially change from the original jurying process, the jurors have the option to review the work.

Truth in Labeling:

Cast work must be differentiated from non-cast work in all exhibitions and marketing venues. This may be done via individual story cards or through other educational signage.

State juried craftspeople are encouraged to permanently mark their work with quality stamps (e.g. 14kt, SS, etc.) and with their personal hallmark. Craftspeople must comply with any specific legal requirements for labeling their craft. The League encourages craftspeople to provide supplemental materials to educate the public on craft and process. Labeling must comply with League state juried standards.

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; they would not be reasonably interpreted, based upon appearance, as objects created by juried LNHC members; and they are markedly transformed by obvious decision making on the part of the craftsman.

Health and Safety Guidelines

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