



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 EARLY AMERICAN DECORATION

The League's emphasis is on the hand crafting of work and not necessarily the painting and decorating on a surface where there is no handcrafting involved by the person submitting the work. The one exception to this guideline is in the traditional Early American Decorating where the intent is to reproduce the designs in their original concept, allowing for some personal expression.

The following categories are considered for jurying:

1. Country (brushstroke) painting
2. Stenciling on tin and wood
3. Freehand bronzing
4. Gold leafing
5. Pontypool (impasto) painting
6. Victorian decorative painting
7. Reverse glass painting, stenciling and gold leaf
8. Theorem painting
9. Floor cloths
 - a. Canvas Grade # 4, 8, or 10 is the recommended weight
 - b. The use of stencils is allowed so long as the stencils are used in a unique way and personalized way.
 - c. Materials and paints need to be durable and of high quality for functionality
 - d. Hems should be both glued and mitered, preferable not sewn
 - e. The back of the work should be painted or gessoed to create a clean finish
 - f. Although the styles may vary, the "voice" or "vision" of the craftsman should be evident throughout, and the floorcloths could be identified as having been made by a specific craftsman.

Technical Guidelines:

1. Whether used in a traditional or contemporary manner, the ornamentation should be appropriate to the piece and exhibit good craftsmanship in keeping with the basic requirements for each technique.
2. The background paint of the article and main units should have good, smooth coverage, free from dust and ridges.
3. Brushstrokes should have good rhythm, proper focal points and not be worked over.
4. Striping should be firm, even and follow the contour of the piece.
5. Velvet painting should be carefully blended with attractive choice of colors.
6. Final finish should be hand rubbed and free from dust and ridges.

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 craftsperson must create the imagery, color choices, and design.

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 to educate the public on craft and process.

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.