



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 POLYMER CLAY

League standards for polymer clay require that the material be fundamentally transformed by the artisan resulting in work that demonstrates technical fluency, integrity of intent and a spirited sense of personal vision.

Craftsmanship refers to the technical skills involved with polymer clay: canework, painting, etching, finishing and surface techniques and their execution including any accessories. Craftsmanship should be consistent throughout the entire piece and be technically well crafted of high-quality materials.

The work must demonstrate technical proficiency and should express the personal vision and aesthetic of the maker, demonstrating a coherent stylistic development with every attention to detail, design, function, and finish which sets the work apart.

Technical Guidelines:

1. All work must be of original design.
2. The work should reflect a strong and original stylistic development.
3. If applicant works on a variety of styles, multiple examples of each type of work must be brought to jury.
4. Artistry of piece involves design and composition. Presentation, innovation, and creativity all come into play. Form, color, and mass should all be working together to make an integrated whole.
5. The jury will only accept work where polymer clay is the main focus.
6. If a piece can be constructed solely of polymer clay, it should be, provided it is structurally sound and suits the function of the piece.
7. When molds, pictorial rubber stamps, photographs, transfers, or cane patterns are used, the original must be made and produced solely through the concept and hand of the craftsperson.
8. Each piece should demonstrate that attention has been paid to all surfaces.
9. Work should be durable, structurally strong, and well made so that it has a reasonable life span when used for its intended purpose.
10. Enhancements to the finished piece, hanging supports, findings and accessories should be of a high quality, function properly, be physically strong and well-integrated within the work.
11. Use of adhesives should be controlled and appropriate to the design and the function of

the piece. Adhesives used in fabricating the work must be carefully applied with no “squeeze out” visible. Choice of adhesive must be appropriate to the material and its intended use.

12. If work falls under multiple mediums, guidelines for each medium must also be met.

Guidelines for Surface Design:

1. Overall design of the piece should be harmonious. Painting, decorating, carving, etching, color, and surface treatments should fit and enhance the work in a way that is integral to the function and expression of the piece.
2. The work should allow originality and personal expression, as well as mastery of technique. If surface design is the primary focus of the object, the design should reflect expressive qualities particular to the craftsperson.

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. Labeling must comply with League state and 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; 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.