



SUNSHINE COAST SPINNERS & WEAVERS GUILD

STANDARDS

As revised by Resolutions at General Meetings of the Guild held
April 3, 2006, April 7, 2008, November 5, 2013, September 8, 2014, and April 13, 2015

Overview

These standards are set forth as a guide to self-jurying prior to a sale or exhibition. The emphasis should be on quality in all respects; the artist should be proud of every item submitted. Consideration will be given to the artistic merit of each submission. Unique designs possess inherent value as one-of-a-kind creations.

Handweaving

1. Articles should be handwoven of quality materials, and the fibres and yarns used must have compatible properties and be suitable for the purpose of the article, e.g., table linens must be launderable, garments could be dry cleanable but able to stand up to wear, etc.
2. Reused or recycled material must be labelled as such.
3. Items should have no threading/treadling errors—these can be fixed on or off the loom prior to fulling.
4. Pieces should contain no knots in warp or weft. With the exception of rugs, all weft joins should be made at the selvages and be inconspicuous. On traditional tapestries it is permissible to leave ends of weft hanging free.
5. Attention should be paid to a consistent beat and good selvages.
6. Sets of towels or placemats should be the same size, with a maximum difference of ¼".
7. Fringes must be secure and even, suitable and in proportion to the article. Fringes should be durable with respect to the function of the item.
8. Machine or handstitching should be inconspicuous unless used as an embellishment.
9. All articles must be fulled (preshrunk) and pressed (if necessary), with the exception of wall hangings, tapestries, etc., and must be accompanied by cleaning instructions.
10. Cushions, by federal law, must be filled with new material only and such contents included in labelling.
11. Wall hangings must be ready to hang with a mounting device attached. Hanging or mounting materials are an integral part of the design and must be appropriate for the weight and size of the hanging.

Handspinning

1. Handknit, hand-crocheted, or machine knitted items must contain at least 75% handspun (25% could be other fibres such as metallic threads, ultra suede and/or embellishment).
2. Attention must be paid to the finish of all knitted or crocheted items, with ends darned in, items washed and blocked, etc., where appropriate.
3. Handspun skeins must exhibit uniformity of spinning technique, i.e., consistently even or deliberately textural, free of stains, second cuts, foreign matter, and knots. The twist must be set and the skeins tied securely and neatly.
4. All hand-dyed yarns must be washed and free of residual dyes.
5. "Artisan yarns" may be included for sale in their own right or incorporated into other items for sale. Artisan yarns are defined as the unique creations of Guild members who dye, paint, handspin or embellish yarns. Acceptance of such items will be at the discretion of the Standards Committee. Artisan yarns can be used collaboratively between Guild members to create an item. However, artisan yarns acquired outside the Guild may be used to a maximum of 25% of an item (consistent with the standard for handspun yarns). The intent of the inclusion of artisan yarns is to showcase the work of our own Guild members.

Felting

STANDARDS

1. Fibre used in felting may be new or recycled, and labelled as such. Fibre used in felted, knitted articles should contain a minimum of 10% handspun or hand-dyed yarns, and acceptance of such items will be at the discretion of the Standards Committee.
2. Felted items must be uniformly felted (i.e., no thick or thin spots), unless variation is an obvious design element. Articles of clothing must be firm enough to stand wear.
3. Design of items must be suitable to fibre type and function of the article.
4. Dyed felted items must be free of residual dyes.
5. Felted items must be finished according to handweaving and knitting finishing standards, where applicable.
6. All felted items, in accordance with federal law, must be provided with fibre content and cleaning instructions.
7. "Silk fusion" is included in this category.

Toys/Christmas Ornaments

Toys or ornaments must be handknitted, handwoven, handfelted, or must incorporate some interlacement of threads. Toys, by federal law, must be filled with new material and such contents included in labelling. It is advised that a prototype of any planned production ornament or toy be approved by the Standards Committee at the September meeting, before further production.

Basketry

Baskets may be woven, twined, or wrapped, should be durable to suit their intended purpose, and have all ends neatly tucked in.

Surface Design

Surface design projects must be original in design and include hand-dyeing or other embellishments such as beading, embroidery, or other stitching on a substrate suitable for the project. The project will incorporate some elements of handweaving, handspinning, hand-felting, and/or hand-dyeing. The Standards Committee will have the discretion to accept or reject items that conflict with the focus of a Guild sale or display.

Labelling

1. All items must show clearly the complete fibre content, production method, and care instructions.
2. Commercial linings and cushion stuffing must be listed as such with fiber content; re-used materials such as rags should be labelled as such.
3. Production method should be stated, e.g., handknit, handwoven, handspun, hand-felted, machine knit.
4. Precise care instructions must be included, i.e., hand wash, machine wash, or dry clean. You can always add "or dry clean," but "dry clean ONLY" must be stated if that is the case. Do not state "machine wash and dry" unless the article has already undergone this process.
5. When labelling skeins, fibre content and weight of each skein must be recorded; it's a good idea to include both metric and imperial weights.

Pricing

Until further notice, the Guild will take 15% of the selling price as its commission. To get the correct selling price, divide the amount you want to receive for the item by 85, then multiply by 100. The Guild will not set any prices for your items, but you can check with other members to find a suitable range. Please round off numbers to closest dollar amount.

Labels

If you have suitable labels, you may use them, but all items must also have a Guild printed label. The Guild will supply removable stickers, which must be used on all items and include the seller's initials, item number, and price.

STANDARDS

Sale Selection

When possible, jurying will be done in advance, to allow time for correction of minor errors found by the Standards Committee. The Standards Committee will not be unreasonable and will be looking specifically for quality execution and finish. All items handed in on the stated day must be finished, properly labelled, and ready for sale or show. No items will be accepted after the stated time.

Items accepted by the jury the previous year shall be accepted. Any items from two or more years earlier shall be accepted at the discretion of the jury. It is recommended that these items should be reworked the second or third time around (overdye, embellish, etc.).

Jury Procedures

These procedures are set down not to complicate the jurying process, but to provide clarification regarding rejected items. These standards must be followed, but judges are reminded to maintain a generous spirit and common sense when considering items, remembering that members need encouragement when submitting pieces for jurying.

Immediately after the jurying process is completed, the jury will call the makers of any rejected items, to pick up or make arrangements for delivery of the items. All errors should be marked with needle and contrasting thread or a safety pin, with a written reason for rejection.

When possible, the jury will provide guidance for any necessary repairs and allow time for these repairs to be undertaken.