

# ARTFORM/ CRAFT CATEGORIES

Clay

Fiber/Textiles

Glass

Jewelry

Mixed Media

Natural Products

Baskets Brooms, Candles, Corn Shuck Dolls, Leather,  
Nature Products: Dried Arrangements, Soap and Lotion,

Wood.

Paper

2-D Art and Surface Design

Toys

Other

## **GUIDELINES**

### **CLAY:**

#### **FUNCTIONAL: WHEEL-THROWN AND HANDBUILT:**

1. Bottoms must be appropriately finished, flat and stable with no ricking, and no sharp edges or cracks.
2. Rims and edges must not be sharp enough to cut, especially carved designs.
3. File down sharp “pills” of clay on surfaces before glazing. On glazed and stilted bottoms, stilt marks should be smoothed over.
4. The thickness of the walls and bases should display skill and control of the medium.
5. Pots should be signed by the potter with a signature or personal mark.
6. All pottery meant for use with food must be food safe; the use of any lead, lead frits, barium carbonate or other non-food-safe chemicals in the glazes is forbidden.
7. Pieces should be microwave, dishwasher, and oven safe or otherwise marked.
8. Glaze faults such as crazing, crawling, bloating, blistering, or pinholes are not acceptable on functional pieces.
9. If glass of any kind is fused into glaze during firing, cracks, crazing, or pitting renders the piece non-food or liquid safe and must be labeled as such. (This glaze practice is generally discouraged for functional pieces.

#### **DECORATIVE: RAKU AND FIGURAL:**

1. Bottoms must be sufficiently finished so as not to scratch any surface with which they will come in contact.
2. All edges should be smooth enough that they would not easily cut.
3. Any bases used need to be securely attached.
4. The subject matter must be deemed appropriate by the AACC Standards Committee for the sales floor.
5. All decorative pottery must be marked as such. i.e., not food safe or watertight.

#### **POLYMER, EPOXY, AIRDRY CLAYS:**

1. Items should have no cracks or gaps; polymer items should be free of burn marks and blistering.
2. Cane-working should have little distortion or smearing.
3. Armatures in a sculpted piece should not be visible in the finished product.
4. Polymer pieces must be properly cured in an oven in full accordance with instructions for the type of polymer clay being used.
5. Air-dry clay should be properly sealed; epoxy must be properly cured.

All **Jewelry** made from clay must meet Jewelry standards.

Clay

## **GUIDELINES**

### **GLASS: STAINED, BLOWN, FUSED, AND BENCHWORK:**

1. Designs should show originality, kits are not allowed. Copyrighted designs are not allowed unless a letter of release from the copyright holder is on file in the Shop's office.
2. Pieces must be free from sharp edges on foil or solder.
3. Glass should be free from chips or cracks.
4. Smooth solder joints are required.
5. Came should fit glass tightly or be puttied so no holes show.
6. Plastic is allowed but only as a functional part of the item such as a night light.
7. Design painted on glass is permitted if it is artist's original work.
8. Hanging material is part of the overall design and should be artistic and appropriate.
9. Fused glass and benchwork must be free from vitrification.

All **Jewelry** made from glass must meet Jewelry standards.

## **GUIDELINES**

### **JEWELRY:**

1. The use of plastic beads and components in jewelry is generally not allowed. Exceptions are vintage plastics (lucite, bakelite, etc.) used as a portion of the overall design and contemporary man-made synthetic materials (polymer clays, resin, etc.) which are used as raw materials by the artist to fabricate all or portions of the design.
2. Materials used must be of good quality. No chips, broken edges or other flaws.
3. Strung jewelry must be snugly and securely finished using a stringing material that is strong, durable and appropriate to the materials being strung. Monofilament fishing line is not allowed. (Spun filament fishing lines such as Fireline are acceptable.)
4. Stitched beadwork must have all thread ends securely finished off and buried within the work. Durable threads appropriate for the work must be used, such as Nymo, Fireline, etc. Clasps must be securely attached so that they will not come off.
5. The materials used must be listed on an accompanying tag, especially metals that will be touching the skin. If possible stones should be identified.
6. All components must be securely attached to each other using appropriate materials. Fasteners must be secure and easy to open and close.
7. The use of glue is only acceptable when joining materials that cannot be joined by other means. Glues must be specifically formulated for the materials being joined and residue should not be visible.

## **GUIDELINES**

### **MIXED MEDIA:**

Mixed media includes a work of art that employs the use of two or more media in its construction (for example metal, ceramic, stone, natural material, fiber, etc.). Plastic is not acceptable. For consideration of acceptance into the AACC, the applicant must show expertise in all media elements employed.

1. There should be a minimal amount of commercially purchased material. Where purchased or found elements are used they should be embellishments to the artist's original concept.
2. Attachments between components in the work should be appropriate to the components, archival and non-visible, unless their visual presence is integral to the finished work
3. Glue, when used, should be appropriate to the materials being glued together. No glue residue should be visible in the finished product.
4. Solder, if used, should not be sharp enough to cut.
5. Hangers, feet, or other display methods must be appropriate to the medium. If items are to be hung, avoid sawtooth hangers.
6. Collectable items such as art dolls should be so labeled.

## **GUIDELINES**

### **NATURAL PRODUCTS: Baskets, Brooms, Candles, Corn Shuck Dolls, Leather, Nature Products- Dried Arrangements, Soap and Lotions, Wood**

#### **BASKETS:**

1. Functional baskets should be tightly woven, with strong bottoms, and strong handles securely attached.
2. Baskets must be carefully finished, edges tucked in neatly, hairs removed. If reed is used, it should not be split, rough, or hairy.
3. Any added decorations must be of a natural material.

#### **BROOMS:**

1. Items should exhibit uniform stitches and be tightly woven.
2. Broom should be fastened securely to a natural handle.
3. Floor brooms should sweep well.

#### **CANDLES:**

1. Melt and pour kits are not accepted.
2. Handmade means ingredients have been mixed by craftsperson, that is, either molded, poured, or free form. Sand molded candles are acceptable.
3. Beeswax, paraffin, and soy wax are accepted.
4. If fragrance is used, candles must be wrapped or contained. Natural fragrance is preferred.
5. Ingredients must be completely blended so as to avoid separation.
6. Labels must include a complete list of ingredients.

#### **CORN SHUCK DOLLS:**

1. Dolls must be made from real corn husks. Paper is not allowed.
2. Filler in skirt should be entirely corn husk and full in shape.
3. Hair can be of corn silk, wool or other natural material.
4. Dolls should be firmly constructed.
5. The doll can be constructed using pipe cleaners or wire for insides of arms. Dolls must not be glued together. Thread or wire can be used to tie the doll. Wires or pipe cleaners can not show.
6. Glue application should be kept to a minimum and the glue must not show.

#### **LEATHER:**

1. Good quality hides should be used.
2. Edges must be neatly finished.
3. Glue, if used, must be secure and well concealed.
4. Any secondary material used should not show unless part of design.

**NATURE PRODUCTS (Dried Arrangements):**

1. All visible materials used must be natural.
2. Items must not shed or shatter.
3. The article must be securely assembled with no loose parts.
4. Materials must be de-bugged.
5. Glue must not show.
6. Background material used for foundation should not show unless incorporated into the design.
7. If item is made to sit on a surface, the bottom should be carefully finished so as not to damage fine surfaces.
8. Items for hanging must have appropriate hangers attached.

**SOAPS AND LOTIONS:**

1. Melt and pour kits are not accepted.
2. Handmade means ingredients have been mixed by the craftsperson.
3. If scented, essential oil fragrance or natural products are preferred (such as pumice, salt, spices, etc.).
4. Bars must be wrapped. Pump bottles should be locked or sealed.
5. Labels must include a complete list of ingredients.
6. Lotions must include the date the batch was created on the label and be rotated out of every six months, to ensure freshness.

**WOOD (Wooden Toys, Sculpture):**

1. Original, creative or traditional designs are required. No kits or copyrighted designs are allowed unless a release for the original copyright holder is on file in the shop's office.
2. Sanded surfaces including end grain must be smooth to the touch before a finish is applied. Joints should be tight and held with screws, nails, or permanent wood glue. Exposed sharp edges must be softened by sanding. Outdoor items must use "water proof" glue products.
3. Finishes containing toxic material are not allowed. No visible drips, sags, or brush marks are allowed. Insides of items like boxes should be of the same quality as outside. Food safe finishes are required for items that will come in contact with food.
4. Carving from duplicating machines such as lasers is not allowed.
5. Rough out blanks are not allowed unless the carver has more than 50% of finish carving to complete.
6. Wood toys must be durable and meet the Standards for Toys.

## **GUIDELINES**

### **PAPER: BOOKS, NOTECARDS**

#### **BOOKS:**

1. Paper, whether commercially purchased or handmade, must be appropriate to the finished work.
2. All books should be hand bound.
3. Good quality book-binders glue, such as wheatpaste or polyvinyl acetate, should be used where appropriate.
4. Glue should not be visible.
5. Spine should be straight.
6. Edges may be cut or deckled.

#### **NOTECARDS/BOOKMARKS:**

1. Artwork should be original; no stamps unless they are original.
2. Paper stock must be of good quality, with accompanying envelopes.
3. Acetate sleeves must be durable and appropriate.
4. Items may be laminated.



## **GUIDELINES**

### **2-D ART and SURFACE DESIGN**

#### **2-D: PHOTOGRAPHS, PAINTINGS, PRINTS:**

1. All work must be original and signed by the artist.
2. Eraser marks are unacceptable.
3. Framing material must complement the work. Frames should be well made.
4. Hangers must be appropriate to the size and weight of the work. Sawtooth hangers are not acceptable.
5. Unframed 2D work needs to be displayed on a larger size foam or heavy poster board and needs self-sealing cellophane or envelope for protection.

#### **DECORATIVE PAINTING/SURFACE DESIGN:**

1. Decorative painting, including tole, is done on metal, wood, cloth, stone, and other natural media. These may be purchased by the crafter.
2. Items must demonstrate a high level of expertise in painting techniques.
3. Paint used must be appropriate to the surface.

## **GUIDELINES**

### **FIBER AND TEXTILES: Crocheted or Knitted Articles, Quilting, Sewing & Embroidery, Handspun, handmade and/or hand dyed Yarn, Weaving, & Needle Felting**

**\*\*All Fiber and Textiles tags must include fiber content and care instructions\*\***

#### **CROCHETED OR KNITTED ARTICLES:**

1. All work should present a consistently high level of craftsmanship, i.e. at level above beginner in the craft.
2. No synthetic fibers may be used if the item comes in contact with heat, i.e: hot pads must be of natural fibers.
3. Tension should be even and consistent.
4. Items must be neatly finished.

#### **EMBROIDERY:**

1. Pre-stamped designs, kits, or pillow panels are not allowed.
2. Stitches should be even, with starting and ending threads properly finished, and loose threads clipped.
3. Embroidery thread should not show through from underneath (as crossing from one place to another).
4. When work is mounted, puckers should be not be visible.
5. The finished article should be well pressed and clean and, if to be hung, ready to be presented.
6. Sewing standards apply to all piecework items

#### **HANDSPUN, HANDMADE AND/OR HAND DYED YARN**

1. Natural and synthetic fibers that are processed and spun by hand will be called handspun.
2. Yarns that are spun by hand and then plied with commercial yarn and threads **MUST HAVE** at least one ply that is handspun and must be clearly labeled as to content. These yarns are called handmade.
3. Handspun submitted for jury must be in a properly tied skein, tagged or labeled with fiber content, yardage, and weight (e.g., lace, fingering, DK or sport, worsted, bulky). Each skein shall be labeled as to type of yarn (e.g., single ply, 2-ply, etc., art yarn, cospun, etc.) and if hand dyed, also labeled with type of dye used. Care instructions shall also be included on the skein tag.
4. Preparation – the fibers chosen are properly prepared, durable, and suitable for the spun fiber's intended purpose.
5. Diameter - the diameter of the handspun fiber shall be consistent with the type yarn being submitted.
6. Uniformity – the spun fiber is consistently even and deliberately controlled.
7. Cleanliness – the finished yarn should be thoroughly rinsed to remove any excess dirt, oil, and dye residue.

8. Dye – dye used should not rub off on the user’s hands while working with dyed yarns. Artist must treat their yarns for colorfastness, using Synthrapol or an equal product to set the dye and should also identify the type of dye used (i.e. natural, vegetable/fruit dye, purchased, synthetic, etc.) All dyed yarn must be thoroughly rinsed and dried before packaging to prevent issues from mold/mildew.
9. Yarn finishing – the twist is set and is appropriate for its intended purpose. The appearance of the spun fiber should be visually pleasing in twist and color.
10. Submittal – yarns must be neatly skeined and tied. There should be absolutely NO knots in the finished skein.
11. Unacceptable – unsound yarns or obvious errors such as over-twist, under twist, separated splices and slubs in an otherwise smooth yarn are not acceptable.

NOTE: Art yarns come in many forms. If submitting an art yarn for jury, the finished product should be secure by plying the skein with a silk thread or other sturdy thread or yarn to ensure the bulky locks or thick-and-thin yarn is bound and will not come apart when being used in knitting, crocheting, or weaving.

**NEEDLE FELTING/ FELTING:**

1. Kits and stamped designs are not allowed.
2. Items should show expertise and knowledge of needle felting and/or wet felting techniques and the felting process. A successful felted piece is made from materials appropriate for its primary function
3. Items should be neatly constructed, finished, and felted well enough to resist pulling apart with no thin places, holes or folds visible. Wet felted items should be felted hard enough to resist abrasion and pilling.
4. Adornments should be well affixed to the item so as not to come loose and must be an appropriate match to the felted piece (e.g., when felting on silk the fiber should become integrated into the felt sufficiently so that it cannot be pulled loose).
5. Jewelry made of felted work must meet jewelry standards.
6. Sewing standards apply for pieced work.

**QUILTING and SEWING: Hand and Machine made:**

1. Articles must be original designs or adaptations of traditional patterns. Copyrighted patterns may not be used, unless a letter of release from the original copyright holder is presented and filed in the Shop’s office. Kits or stamped designs, pillow or pillow panels are not allowed.
2. All articles submitted must be clean and entirely the work of the person submitting them.
3. Fabrics must be washed before the project is cut out.
4. Piecing the fabric must be neatly and accurately done with consistent use of fabric grain lines. Blocks must be true and square and consistent in size. Press seams toward the darker or more dense fabric to avoid shadowing.
5. Quilting designs should be spaced to adequately hold the layers together. 3-4 inches apart is maximum for polyester batting, 1½ -2 two inches for cotton.
6. Marking lines and basting should not be visible in the finished item.

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7. Knots or tails of thread should not be visible front or back.
8. Stitches should be regular and even, with no pleats, puckers, or gathering of the layers. Good quality thread should be used; no plastic thread.
9. Edges and corners should be neatly finished, preferably with separate binding attache, unless part of the design.
10. The use of polyester batting is discouraged in items intended to handle or hold hot objects (potholders, mug rugs, casserole carriers). If polyester batting is used, it must be sandwiched between layers of cotton batting.
11. Hand or machine applique must be secured to the backing fabric. A bonding material may be used to secure the pieces but must also be sewn down around the outside edges of the applique (unless a frayed edge is part of the overall design).
12. Preprinted panels can only be used as a base and should be substantially supplemented by additional techniques such as piecing, embroidery, applique, etc.

### **WEAVING:**

1. Tags must meet the general requirements of the Center and also include fiber content and care instructions.
2. Good quality yarns must be used and woven items treated with color fixative as needed to prevent colors from bleeding when washed.
3. Kitchen/dining products should be prewashed.
4. Warp and weft tension should be consistent and appropriate for the weave structure and the use of the woven item. (Example: a scarf may have a loose structure in its design but a washcloth or dish towel must have a tight durable weave.)
5. Fiber content must be appropriate for the intended use of the woven item. (Example: wool is appropriate for a scarf but not for a napkin.)
6. Selvedge edges should be even, and ends neatly finished with hems, knots and fringe, or hem stitching and fringe.
7. Woven rugs must be tight and safe (no loops or holes to cause a trip & if fringed, have a short fringe).
8. Hand woven clothing, handbags or other item constructed from hand woven cloth must meet the standards for sewing as well as weaving.
9. Specialty items, such as toys, Christmas tree decorations, & jewelry made from hand woven cloth must meet the Center's standards for the appropriate category as well as weaving standards.

## **GUIDELINES**

### **TOYS: Dolls, Stuffed, Wooden, etc.**

1. No kits are allowed. Copyrighted designs are allowed if the crafter owns the copyright or has a letter of release from the copyright holder, a copy to be kept on file at AACC.
2. Punch or safety eyes and/or noses are not acceptable. No toys may include sharp edges or points or small parts that are potential choking hazards.
3. Sturdy and safe construction is required. Glue must not show. Embellishments must be secure.
4. Faces should be stitched or neatly painted with non-toxic paints.
5. Stuffing must be even and adequate.
6. Sewn items must meet sewing standards.
7. Molded parts are permissible only if the crafter used a mold to form the part.
8. Labels must include materials and care instructions.

## **GUIDELINES**

### **OTHER**

Perishable items, including but not limited to, **food and plants**, are not accepted for jury.

Any other art/craft medium that does not fall into the current AACC standards categories listed should follow the procedure outlined below:

### **Procedure for jury entries not covered by current standards categories:**

The AACC Standards committee is allowed 1 full jury cycle (4 months- please check current jury dates) to research an uncategorized art/craft. This allows time to find an "expert" in the particular "medium" to assist/ and or educate the Standards committee in the jury of entries.

To submit **inquiries** to the Standards Committee for **uncategorized entries**:

- 1) Fill out the forms in the jury packet
- 2) No jury fee is required until you are notified by the Standards committee that your work is cleared to enter the jury process. (remember this takes a 4-month jury cycle)
- 3) Include photos of 3 items that are representative of your work.  
(Standards committee will contact you if the actual items need to be brought in.)
- 4) Standards committee will notify you by mail if your work is cleared to enter the jury process.

The goal of these procedures is to provide a fair evaluation and be in the best interest of the crafter and the AACC.