



WORKMANSHIP STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Overview:

The Workmanship Standards Committee ensures that all artwork at Artisans meets the Workmanship Standards.

Essential Committee Tasks:

- Reviews artwork of new or prospective members to see if it meets Workmanship Standards. Inform the Jury Committee.
- Constant monitoring of artwork to ensure that all of it meets the standards.
- Contact any artist who needs to make changes in their artwork to meet the standards.

Associated with:

- Jurying in new members
- Ongoing monitoring

Communicates and Coordinates with:

- Board members
- Jury Committee - advises Committee

Essential Skills for Committee Members:

- Ability to communicate clearly and concisely with people.

Guidelines:

(see below)



WORKMANSHIP STANDARDS GUIDELINES

ABSTRACT

Artisans' Workmanship Standards are meant to define a minimum level of workmanship Artisans expects from any item offered by any Artisans member. These standards are not meant to limit creativity, but they do affect the impression that a guest is left with. It is, therefore, very important that these standards be met and when appropriate, exceeded.

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Purpose: Artisans' Workmanship Standards are meant to define a minimum level of workmanship Artisans expects from any item offered by any Artisans member. These standards are not meant to limit creativity, but they do affect the impression that a guest is left with. It is therefore, very important that these standards be met and when appropriate, exceeded.

- The Standards will be referred to as appropriate by **Artisans' Jury Committee** when reviewing applicants' offerings. They will also be used by the Display Committee on an ongoing basis as works pass through the store.
- Applicants whose items don't pass review by the Jury Committee because of workmanship issues will be told about those issues. Applicant will be offered the opportunity to rectify them, if possible.
- The Standards will be referred to by the **Display Committee** when monitoring Members' works on display. Members whose items are found to have issues will be notified. If in the judgement of the Display Committee the issue is serious, the work may be pulled from display for return to the member.
- If the Display Committee finds Members' works to be repetitively at issue, the Board will be notified for consideration of corrective action.
- Applicants and Members will have the right to dispute or appeal any adverse findings.

Workmanship standards exist in all known mediums. There are those that apply only to a single medium. There are also those that apply to multiple mediums. Our Artisans' Workmanship Standards are:

1. **General Criteria**

- a. All original works must be handmade by the Artist, where 'handmade' means artist-produced using hands and tools
- b. Works must be originally designed and created. Works may not come from a 'kit'
- c. Member shall not exhibit any works whose design is copywritten by another.
- d. Member is solely responsible for any claim of copyright infringement.
- e. Works must not be buy-sell or buy-assemble-sell.
- f. The item must show a high degree of craftsmanship and experience with materials.
- g. The item must be of high-quality materials and constructed using high-quality handmade techniques.
- h. Collaborative artwork shall be considered by the Board on an individual basis.
- i. The artwork must not be similar in design to another artist currently at Artisans.
- j. If an applicant's works are similar in design to another artist currently at Artisans, applicant may still be accepted, but put on a wait list.

2. **Wall Art**

Standards:

- a. Images of artwork exclusively by the artist, such as photographs, paintings, or watercolors may be reproduced on any substrate such as: giclee prints, paper, canvas, wood, ceramic, metal, mousepads, magnets. The items must show the artist's signature.
- b. Original artwork must be clearly marked as "Original". All photographs, acrylics, paintings, watercolors, and other wall art must be signed by the artist.
- c. Prints may or may not be limited in number. If limited, the number must be on the left side in fraction form (e.g., x/yy i.e. 5/50)
- d. A gallery wrapped canvas is acceptable if the work continues around the edges and no staples are visible from the front or edges.
- e. The backside of the piece must be free of blemishes.
- f. If brown Kraft paper is used to cover the back, it must be firmly attached to the edge of the frame.
- g. If used, mats must enhance the piece at the discretion of the artist and be free of dust, smudges, or other imperfections.
- h. Mat liners of a varying color, near the edge of the artwork, is permitted.
- i. Wall art must be securely wired with no sawtooth hangers. Screw eye hooks or D-rings should be attached about 1/3 down from the top edge of the frame. The wrapped wire should be of a gauge that complements the weight of the piece and wrapped tightly with no raw ends that could injure a finger.
- j. Price stickers must be on the back of each piece of artwork but may be attached with tape to keep from damaging the item.

Characteristics to Consider:

- k. Unframed artwork on paper should be matted or backed by mat board in a clear plastic sleeve.
- l. 8x10 or smaller art may have an easel back for shelf display.
- m. Artwork on canvas board may be framed with a paper dust cover on back, held with 2-sided tape and wired for hanging.
- n. So as to not 'mar' the back of the work, one might tape the sticker WITH PAPER BACKING ON IT to the back of the pictures so that it is not actually stuck onto the picture forever. The tape may remove easily, and the sticker may be taken off without damage.

3. Jewelry

- a. Items must be free of observable solder and glue,
- b. Soldered joints and seams must be free of gaps,
- c. Finish must be free of burrs and/or sharp edges,
- d. Metals need to be free of tarnish
- e. Where appropriate, metals need to be polished (includes clasps and ear wires),
- f. Faceted stones, cabochons and beads must be free from defects (unless part of design).
- g. Pre-made chain, clasps, ear wires and jump rings can be used in a design but must not be the sum of the design.
- h. Each piece of jewelry must have a tag that indicates the materials utilized (i.e., metals, stones, cabochons, beads, fabric)

4. Fiber

- a. Thread/yarn ends should be securely and inconspicuously woven into or otherwise secured to the back of the art piece. Decorative fringe is an exception to this, or if the yarn ends are a design element of the piece.
- b. Fringe should be securely knotted so as not to come loose during normal usage of a piece. Fringe should also be evenly trimmed, unless it is a design element to be uneven.
- c. Hanging cords should be an appropriate thickness, and securely attached, to support the finished piece. Sawtooth hangers and screw eyes are not acceptable for wall hung pieces due to the wall hooks used in the shop.
- d. Seams should be neatly finished using even stitches.
- e. When working with multiple-colored yarns (stripes or other patterns), the color not being worked should be neatly carried up the side of the piece, or across the back in such a way that there are not long floats that can be caught and pulled.
- f. Fiber content should be indicated for pieces not intended for display only, i.e. cotton, wool, acrylic, etc.
- g. Cleaning instructions should be included for pieces not intended for display only, i.e., machine wash, tumble dry, line dry, dry clean only, etc.

- h. If a piece is intended for young children, embellishments should be embroidered i.e., sewn-on buttons or beads that can be swallowed and choked on shouldn't be used. "Safety eyes" are also not safe for small children. If used, items need to be marked as appropriate for children over 3 years old.
- i. Items with long cords are a safety hazard for infants and small children. If used, items need to be marked as appropriate for older children.
- j. Stuffed pieces should be securely sewn, and lined if necessary, so that stuffing doesn't leak out.
- k. Child safety notes come from U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission: https://cpsc-d8-media-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/pdfs/blk_pdf_281.pdf

5. **Clay**

Standards:

- a. Cracks are not acceptable in functional pottery, especially at the juncture of handles added to pots. Cracking is acceptable if it is inherent in the design of sculptural pieces. Crazing on raku items is acceptable.
- b. Warpage that interferes with a lid fitting or an ability to stand straight is unacceptable. Slight warpage on an open shape like a mug or flowerpot is acceptable.
- c. Sharp or rough areas must be smoothed or ground off by the artist before they enter our gallery.
- d. Glazes with lead, barium, or radium are not acceptable.

Characteristics to Consider:

- e. Pots that are very heavy at the bottom are a result of poor throwing skills. Even balance is a goal of well-thrown pottery.
- f. All art is more valuable when it is signed, including pottery and sculpture.
- g. Unfortunately specks of iron exist in clay and do not show up until pots are fired, causing "Iron Spotting". People who love pottery are used to them and do not consider them a problem.

6. **Glass**

Standards:

- a. Glass pieces with cloudy areas have been 'devitrified' and this is unacceptable, unless these cloudy areas are a design feature of the piece.
- b. Rough edges, spots, snags, or sharp projections are unacceptable.
- c. Pieces with fingerprints permanently 'etched' into the glass, arising from poor cleaning practice before going into the kiln, are unacceptable.
- d. Piece must not be cracked unless that is part of the design of the piece.

Characteristics to Consider:

- e. Item looks as if one side didn't drop while heated and slumped unevenly. This is unacceptable.
- f. When grinding or sanding a piece, use successively smaller grits to achieve a scratch-free finish. Scratched surfaces are not acceptable.
- g. Look for the tiniest of chips. Usually around the edge and often caused by the grinder. These are unacceptable.

7. Wood

- a. Finishes on all items must conform to Artisans' Finish standards.
- b. Items must not be left with visible tool marks unless tool marks are a feature of the piece.
- c. Glued joints must conform to Artisans' Glued Assemblies standards.
- d. Nails and other metal and plastic fasteners shall not be exposed.
- e. Metal items such as hinges and other shall be free of corrosion unless corrosion is a design feature.

8. Framing, Wood, Metal and other Frames, including Shadow Boxes

- a. Frames must be undamaged.
- b. All frame joints shall be free of gaps.
- c. All frame sides shall be securely joined and glued at their corners.
- d. Frames shall not be warped unless it is intentional and part of the art.
- e. Wood frame finishes shall conform to Artisans' Finishes standards.
- f. Metal frames must conform to Artisans "Metal Work" standards".
- g. All works set into frames shall be securely fastened to their frames.

9. Glued Assemblies

- a. Glue joints shall be free of gaps.
- b. Glued objects shall be free of glue drips and glue stains.

10. Metalwork

- a. Welds shall be free of slag and other by-products.
- b. Fastened joints shall be free of gaps and polished.
- c. Assemblies shall not be corroded or tarnished unless part of the art.
- d. Metal surfaces shall be free of tooling unless part of the art.

11. Finishes

- a. Items with painted or other finishes shall be free of drips, sags, and other finish defects unless a feature of the item.

12. Presentation

- a. Jewelry may not be displayed in boxes with cotton inserts.
- b. Each jewelry artist must have a supply of jewelry boxes available in their bin for customers.
- c. Glass and wood shelves must remain clean from dust and soil.
- d. Glass enclosures (inside & out) and shelves need to remain free of fingerprints, streaks and dust.

13. Wall Art Cards

- a. Each item of wall art must have a wall card with the artist's name, medium, price and inventory item number. (Artist must make these using the template on the website.)
- b. Wall cards must be readable from 5 feet.

14. Jewelry Display Items

- a. Display components (for necklaces, bracelets, rings, earrings, risers, etc.) must be in good repair and free from soil and lint,
- b. If displays are set on top of a glass jewelry case, the display must have protection, such as display pads, to protect the glass,

15. Exceptions

- a. Manufactured accessories for artwork may be sold by artists and priced separately. These must be sold ONLY with another purchase from Artisans, not by themselves. For example, displays for artwork may be sold only with the purchase of the art piece, or a chain may only be sold with the purchase of a pendant.