

Holston Mountain Artisans

GUIDELINES FOR CRAFTS CATEGORIES

CLAY

Functional: Wheel-Thrown and Hand built

1. Bottoms should be smooth and appropriately finished with no sharp edges or cracks.
2. Rims and edges must not be sharp enough to cut, especially carved designs.
3. "Pills" of clay on surfaces that might cut must be filed down. 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.

Decorative: Raku and Figural

1. The bottoms must be sufficiently finished so as not to scratch any surface with which they will come in contact.
2. All edges must be smooth.
3. Any added bases should be securely attached to the sculpture.

JEWELRY

1. Jewelry that consists primarily or exclusively of strung-together purchased beads is not generally accepted; the design of such pieces must be artistically strong and original because the design itself is the craft being juried.
2. The use of plastic beads and components in jewelry is generally not allowed. The exceptions to this rule 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.
3. Materials used must be of good quality. No chips, broken edges or other flaws.
4. 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 okay for use in jewelry.)
5. 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.
6. The materials used must be listed on an accompanying tag, especially metals that will be touching the skin. Stones must be identified.
7. All components must be securely attached to each other using appropriate materials. Fasteners must be secure and easy to open and close.
8. 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 no residue should be visible.

MIXED MEDIA

1. Mixed media items must meet pre-existing standards for previously described categories.
2. Any example of mixed media may include collage, decoupage, embellished paper or fabric, and may contain metal, ceramics, stone, natural material, etc.

NATURAL PRODUCTS: Baskets, Brooms, Candles, Corn Shuck Dolls, Leather, Nature Products, Soap and Lotions

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.

Brooms:

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

Candles:

1. Candles must be handmade and either molded, poured or freeform. Sand-molded candles are acceptable.
2. Beeswax, paraffin, soy wax are accepted.
3. If synthetic fragrance is used, candles must be wrapped. Natural oils (essential oils) preferred.
4. No melt-and-pour kits are acceptable. "Handmade" means ingredients have been mixed by the craftsperson.

Cornshuck 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 should be of cornsilk, 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 should not show.
6. Accessories cannot make up more than 10% of final product. 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 should be natural.
2. Items should not shed or shatter.
3. The article should be securely assembled with no loose parts.
4. Materials should be de-bugged.
5. Glue should 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 as not to damage fine surfaces.
8. Items for hanging should have appropriate hangers attached.

Soaps and Lotions:

1. No kits or melt-and-pour products will be accepted.
2. If scented, essential oil fragrance is preferred.
3. Each bar must be wrapped.

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, should 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. Insides of items like boxes should be of same quality as outside. "Salad oil" finishes are preferred for item that will come in contact with food.
4. Carving from duplicating machines is not allowed.
5. Rough-out blanks are not allowed unless the Carver has more than 50% of finish carving to complete. Materials like Corian can be used only if the finished items are made with woodworking tools.

2-D ART / STAINED GLASS / SURFACE DESIGN

2-D ART: Photographs, Paintings, Prints

1. All work must be original and signed by the artist.
2. There should be no visible eraser marks.
3. Framing material should be appropriate to the subject matter and should complement the work.
4. Hangers should be appropriate to the size and weight of the work.
5. Unframed work needs to be displayed on a larger size foam or heavy poster board and needs plastic wrap or self-sealing cellophane for protection.

Stained Glass:

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. Frames should fit the 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. Designs 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.

Decorative Painting/Surface Design

1. The subject of the painting should be appropriate to the material on which it is painted.
2. Tole painting is done on metal, wood, cloth, stone and other natural medium. These items may be purchased by the Crafter, but must be of high quality and in keeping with similar items in shop.
3. Items should demonstrate a high level of expertise in brush stroke and floating of color.

PAPER: Books, Notecards

Books:

1. Items must be of original writing by artist and art work must not be computer clip art. Art work needs to reflect the subject of the writing.
2. Paper must be of good quality and weight (min 25lb weight).

Notecards:

1. Artwork should be original; no stamps, unless they are original.
2. Notecard stock should be good quality paper, with accompanying envelopes.

POLYMER CLAY

1. Items should have no cracks, gaps, burn marks, blistering, or rough edges.
2. Painting on a piece can be done for only very small detail, i.e. eyelashes, eye highlights. (The skill of work in polymer clay is reflected in the use of the colored clays as the source of the color and detail, not in painting.)
3. Cane-working should have little distortion or smearing.
4. If wire or foil is used for armatures in a sculpted piece, it should not be visible in the finished product.
5. All pieces must be properly cured in an oven in full accordance with instructions for the type of polymer clay being used.

TEXTILES: Dolls and Stuffed Toys, Crocheted or Knitted Articles, Quilting, Sewing, Embroidery, Weaving, Felting

Crocheted or Knitted Articles:

1. Natural fibers are preferred, but high quality synthetics that have a natural appearance can be used. No synthetic fibers may be used if the item comes in contact with heat, ie: hot pads must be of natural fibers.
2. Even tension should be maintained.
3. Items must be neatly finished, with ends worked in nicely.
4. Items should show good proportions and sizing.

Dolls and Stuffed Toys:

1. Kits may not be used.
2. Sturdy construction is required; there should be no glued-on parts. Embellishments must be securely sewn on.
3. Faces should be cross-stitched, embroidered, or neatly painted with non-toxic paints. Punch or safety eyes and/or noses may pose a choking hazard and are not acceptable.
4. Dolls and stuffed toys must be evenly and adequately stuffed.
5. Clothing must be neatly sewn. Unless it is part of the design, all loose threads and raveling must be trimmed or pinked.

Embroidery:

1. Pre-stamped designs, kits, or pillow panels are not allowed.
2. Sewing standards apply to all piecework items.
3. Stitches should be even, with starting and ending threads properly finished.
4. Embroidery thread should not show through from underneath (as crossing from one place to another).
5. Loose threads should be clipped and the finished article well pressed and clean.
6. When two or more pieces of fabric are to be joined, they are to be joined by sewing together. When work is mounted, no puckers should be visible.
7. Selvages must be even.
8. Pattern mistakes must be properly corrected.

Needle Felting/ Felting:

1. Kits and stamped designs are not allowed.
2. Items must be neatly finished and constructed.
3. Items should show good proportions and sizing.
4. Items should show expertise and knowledge of technique of needle felting and the felting process.

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, completed within the previous two years 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. Seams should be pressed toward the darker or more dense fabric to avoid shadowing.
5. Quilting designs should be spaced to adequately hold the layers together. Three to four inches apart is maximum for polyester batting, 1 1/2 -2 inches for cotton.
6. No marking lines should be visible in the finished item.
7. No knots or tails of thread should 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 attached.
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 appliqué 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 appliqué (unless a frayed edge is part of the overall design).

WEAVING

1. Place mats should be pre-washed.
2. Warp and weft tension should be consistent. Selvage edges must be strong and straight. Overshot patterns must be without errors.
3. Clothing should be neatly constructed and finished, and labeled with appropriate sizing and laundering information.

RECYCLED

Recycled, up-cycled or previously used materials used in art or craft projects must meet all guidelines as new materials for safety and basic quality.

These materials must be appropriate for the artist's purposes; sturdy and able to withstand normal handling; without edges, points, or corners that are likely to cause injury; and without paint containing lead. All electrical wires that are other than purely decorative must be new and UL-approved. Any seating must be able to support at least 300 pounds.