

BURLINGTON HANDWEAVERS AND SPINNERS

OUTLINE OF STANDARDS FOR SHOWS AND SALES

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- A. Eligible Entrants
- B. Items acceptable for show and sale
- C. Standards - General criteria
- D. Standards - Technical Criteria
 - D.1. Handwoven items
 - a. Weaving
 - b. Finishing
 - c. Sizes
 - D.2. Handspun items
 - a. Handspun yarns
 - b. Knitted and crocheted items
 - D.3. Producer Yarns
 - D.4. Basketry
 - D.5. Sprang
 - D.6. Beading
 - D.7. Felting, Fulling, Needlefelting
 - D.8. Braiding and Lace Making
 - D.9. Papermaking, Silk Fusion and Tatting
- E. Procedures
 - E.1. Protocol for receiving of entries
 - E.2. Jurying process
 - E.3. Sales labelling requirements
 - a. each item must be labelled
 - b. labels to include
 - c. handspun tags
 - d. hand dyed tags
 - E.4. Showcase Considerations

General Comments

BURLINGTON HANDWEAVERS & SPINNERS STANDARDS FOR SHOWS AND SALES

A. ELIGIBLE ENTRANTS: All persons submitting work to be sold or shown through the BHSG must be members in good standing. Each new member will receive a set of standards and guidelines for show and sale.

B. ITEMS ACCEPTABLE FOR SHOW AND SALE

The Burlington Handweavers and Spinners Guild will accept for show or sale items which:

- have been handwoven on any kind of person-operated loom
- are made from handspun yarn of any fibre
- use braiding, sprang, twining techniques
- use lace making techniques
- use any basketry techniques
- use beadweaving techniques
- use felting, fulling, or needle felting techniques

Handwoven and handspun items must be woven or spun by the person submitting the finished piece. Handwoven yardage may be tailored into a garment by someone other than the weaver and handspun may be knitted or crocheted by someone else, but credit should be given to the dressmaker, knitter, etc.

C. STANDARDS - GENERAL CRITERIA

SALES - All pieces submitted must be original. Originality may be exhibited in one or more of the following: structure, sett, draft, treadlings, colour and fibre. Submissions must be well thought out, well executed and well finished. If the design is an adaptation, the source should be credited.

SHOWS - All pieces submitted must be absolutely original in design and execution. Pieces submitted to any Juried Show must follow the requirements as set out in the Call for Entry for that show.

D. STANDARDS - TECHNICAL CRITERIA

D.1. Handwoven Items

D.1.a. Weaving. Work must be of a high calibre technically. All work submitted must exhibit the following:

1. Appropriate warp setting and beat for the end use of the fabric.
2. No threading, sleying or treadling errors; no skips, no knots in the warp or weft, unless part of the technique used or the design.
3. Weft joins should be spliced or woven back in unobtrusively near the selvedge of the fabric.
4. Selvedges should be controlled.
5. Long floats on the cloth face should be avoided especially on clothing and upholstery fabric.

6. Warp ends should have an appropriate finish. Fringes should be trimmed.
7. The **main** fabric must be handwoven. Leather, ultra suede or commercial fabric may be used as accents (e.g. patch pockets); cuffs and collars knitted from commercial yarns are acceptable.
8. Seams should be neatly and carefully sewn by hand or machine. Top stitching is an acceptable design element.
9. If an item is hand dyed all dyes should be well set, light and wash fast.
10. All articles should be finished, fulled, pressed, blocked and/or dry cleaned. Hanging devices must be installed on tapestries and wall pieces.

D.1.b. Finishing

1. All woven items must be washed, blocked, brushed, pressed, and/or professionally finished as appropriate before sale or display. Articles are not considered finished until they have been so treated.
2. Visible machine stitching should be avoided except in cases where it is essential to the durability or design of the item (i.e. tea towel hems, French seams). Topstitching may be hand or machine done as suitable to the design of the item. Hemstitching is an acceptable technique.
3. When fringes and embellishments are added thought should be given to washability and wearability.
4. Rugs must have an appropriate finish, knotted or braided fringe, hemmed or warp ends sewn back in. Hemstitching alone is not appropriate. Rugs should be well blocked.
5. Joins, when piecing articles, should be as inconspicuous as possible. Patterns should match at joins unless part of design.
6. Compatible lining is recommended in articles such as clothing. Garment construction is extremely important. The inside should look as good as the outside. To prevent raw edges from ravelling, zigzag stitch, serge, bind or fold in to disguise.
7. Accessories such as handles, buttons, buckles and belts should be a part of the design of the article and be compatible. Handcrafted accessories are recommended where possible.
8. If you have included notions that have to be removed during washing include a small amount of the yarn that was used to sew it on. This is also a considerate gesture for handspun articles to repair seams.
9. Cushions to be sold must be stuffed with commercial cushion forms with legally required label attached.
10. All work to be hung should be well presented with suitable mounting apparatus which is an integral part of the piece. Hanging mechanism should suit the design and the weight of the hanging. Give some thought to moth-proofing and Scotch-guarding. Lining or woven-in ends at the back should be considered.
11. Yardage should have a tabby heading at both ends or be secured either with hemstitching or straight machine stitching in a matching colour. It should be rolled on tubing, not folded.

D.1.c. Some standard sizes for handwoven articles after finishing: (**suggestions only**)

Stoles: finished 26" x 90"

Scarves: variable, depending upon men's, ladies', yarns, style, etc.

Ladies': 11" x 60" Men's" 11" x 50"

Afghans: 58" x 72", 40" x 60"

Table runners: 2½ times the length of placemats

Table scarves: 44"

Placemats: 12" x 18", 14" x 20" - large enough to hold a place setting of china.

Guest towels: 11" x 16"

Tea Towels: finished 21" x 35"

D.2. Handspun Items

D.2.a. Handspun Yarns

1. Natural and synthetic fibres that are spun by hand will be called handspun. Yarns that are spun by hand and then plied with commercial yarn and threads must be at least 80% handspun.
2. Yarns for sale or exhibition should be neatly skeined and tied with figure 8 ties.
3. The yarn should be clean and washed with the twist well set.
4. The thickness and twist should be appropriate for the fibre.
5. Unsound yarns or obvious errors such as overtwist, undertwist, separated plies and slubs in an otherwise smooth yarn, are not acceptable.
6. Kits must be complete with instructions for making the item. All yarn in these kits must be handspun.
7. Fibre combinations in finished yarn should be suitable.
8. All dyes should be well set, light fast and wash fast.

D.2.b. Knitted and Crocheted Items

1. At least 90% of the yarn in knit or crocheted items must be handspun, according to the definition stated under Handspun Yarns. Accents (up to 10%) of commercial yarn or hand-constructed fancy yarns that fall outside this definition are allowed. The Burlington Guild will make an exception to this rule in the case of knitted hats or mitts which match a handwoven scarf and are sold as a set.
2. Spinning technique must be appropriate to the article, e.g. angora must have sufficient twist so that it does not separate.
3. Yarn ends must be woven or sewn in.
4. Dropped stitches, pattern mistakes are not acceptable.
5. Items must be well constructed with neat seams and good edges.
6. Machine knit items of handspun yarn are acceptable and must be labelled as Machine Knit.

D.3. Producer Yarns

These yarns are allowed to be sold as skeins, knits, wovens or kits. The yarn may be commercially carded and spun, but must be from the producer's flock and must be hand dyed by the producer.

D.4. Basketry

1. All basketry techniques are acceptable.
2. Basketry must be suitable for its intended use: e.g. sturdy if meant to carry weight, smooth if meant to hold yarns, smooth bottom if meant to stand squarely upright, not dyed if meant to hold food.
3. The handle should be securely attached.
4. All dyes should be well set.

D.5. Sprang

1. The finished piece must be of a high calibre both technically and artistically.
2. Sprang structures are created solely by a hand manipulation of the parallel threads of warp that are fixed at both ends, and are completely weftless
3. The sprang piece shows one or more of the 3 thread structures (i.e. interlinking, interlacing and intertwining).
4. The piece can be flat or 3-dimensional (circular) depending on shaping methods used and must be stably constructed and finished.
5. The piece needs to be secured by making a meeting line at or near the centre of sprang. Whatever structure is used, there will be a mirror-imaging of the design on either side of the meeting line.

D.6. Beading

This category accepts loom woven as well as other interlacement techniques (peyote, brick stitch, etc.) but does not permit the straight stringing of beads as the only method of construction.

D.7. Felting, and Needlefelting

1. Felted articles shall be made of unspun fibre, and nuno felting on a commercial base cloth is acceptable.
2. Needlefelted articles shall be acceptable. Accents of commercial yarn up to 10 % are allowed.
3. All dyes should be well set, light fast and wash fast.

D.8. Braiding and Lace Making

Acceptable techniques in this category include kumihimo and bobbin lace.

D.9. Papermaking, Silk Fusion and Tatting

Papermaking, silk fusion and tatting are not accepted as “stand alone” techniques, but may be combined with other acceptable techniques.

E. PROCEDURES

E.1. Protocol for receiving of entries. (applies to sales and to exhibitions/juried shows).

1. Deadlines: The show or sale convenor must announce the dates for an event including submission and jurying dates at two meetings prior to the event. These dates must also be posted

in the studio. The responsibility of ascertaining the dates rests with the person who wishes to submit work. All work to be entered in the show/sale MUST be submitted before the jurying time. None can be accepted after that time. (There should be some room for negotiation in unusual situations such as extreme illness, but this should be a rare exception, rather than accepted practice.)

2. All work should be labelled according to labelling guidelines (see below).
3. Two copies of entry forms/inventory sheets should be prepared by the submitter. As work is received for sale/exhibition, inventory sheets should be checked, and the person receiving work should draw a line across the sheet immediately below the bottom item listed and write in the total number of items received. The weaver's copy of the sheet should then be initialled and returned to her. Nothing is to be added after that time.
4. All work submitted for a sale/exhibition must be checked to be sure it meets the Guild standards.

E.2. Jurying process:

SHOWS - Guild Juried Shows will employ an outside juror in keeping with the Burlington Art Centre guidelines. Items submitted to such a show must be checked for Guild standards before being submitted to a juror. This is the responsibility of the Juried Show Convenor.

SALES - Items submitted for sales will be checked to ensure Guild standards are met, but will not be juried on artistic merit or design, such as colour use or style.

No piece may be offered for sale for more than three consecutive sales. The onus will be on the artisan to make this distinction. The Sales Convenor has the right to reject an item that does not comply with this guideline.

Checking for standards of all sale and show items will be the responsibility of the convenor of this event.

Returns of items which do not meet Guild standards: If an item is not accepted, a reason for the rejection will be provided. The sale convenor will phone the submitter promptly (before the sale) so she can repair the work or pick it up. (In some cases another sale on the same weekend may accept the work.)

If the item can be brought up to standard before the show date the member should be allowed to fix the fault and resubmit the items. The convenor of the event will be responsible for returning the rejected item to the member.

E.3. Sales Labelling Requirements:

E.3.a. Each sale item must have a hangtag.

E.3.b. Labelling for sales must include:

- name, address and telephone number
- title or name of piece
- description of piece
- dimensions (in cm. or inches) or size (S M L) for clothing

- % fibre by weight
- techniques used
- special qualities (e.g. ikat dyed, handspun weft)
- care and cleaning instructions. Care instructions should include care of the notions, e.g. porcelain or wooden buttons should be removed when washing the item.
- Guild weaver number and item number
- sale price which includes the % to the Guild and BAC. If not for sale state NFS.

**Each tag should bear a removable sticker (Avery removable brand of sticky label is recommended) which states the weaver number, article number and price written on it which can be removed at time of sale for Treasurer's records. (e.g. W54, # 14, \$15.00)

E.3.c. For handspun yarns the tag should have:

- the name of the maker,
- description of the yarn,
- % fiber content,
- yardage and weight.
- special qualities of the yarn should be noted, e.g. rainbow dyed, Samoyed hair.
- care instructions must be on the tag.
- with a skein suggest a suitable use for the yarn.

E.3.d. For hand dyed items labelling should include:

- which dyes and mordants are used, e.g. black walnut with tin.
- care instructions, e.g. do not place in direct sun.

E.4. **Showcase Considerations:** All items to be shown in the display case must meet Guild standards. The Exhibition Convenor and her assistant will act as checkers for the display items.

General Submission Procedures.

For a Juried Show anywhere read all Call For Entry instructions carefully.

All pieces that are to be hung must be marked as right and wrong side, top and bottom. Do not take anything for granted. Specific hanging instructions should be included.

Photography is important when jurying is done by slides. Consider professional service. Photograph work before display/sale - you'll want a record of it especially if the work is sold.

Remember the most important standard to meet is good craftsmanship. NEAT COUNTS. Use the iron or yarn blocker. Look the item over carefully before you submit and most problems will never arise. Don't be discouraged. Accept both criticism and bouquets gracefully. When work is not accepted, endeavour to understand why and use this information for the next entry.