



Frog Hollow Vermont Craft Gallery Fiber Guidelines 2017

Standard Criteria for Fiber:

Frog Hollow's standards for work in fiber require that the fiber materials be fundamentally transformed by the artisan, resulting in finished work that demonstrates technical fluency, integrity of intent and a spirited sense of vision. Media created from fiber may vary from wool to silk with the finished product being woven, felted, printed, or sown.

The Frog Hollow standards look for originality in all craft media. The work must demonstrate more than technical proficiency, more than the reproduction of a recognized style; it should express the personal aesthetic and vision of the maker, demonstrate a coherent stylistic development, with every attention to color, detail, design, function and finish.

A harmony of intent, process and result is the measure of successful work.

Technical Guidelines for all items:

- 1. Material chosen for a fiber piece, whether intended for hanging or everyday use, should be of good quality and appropriate for the purpose.**
 - 2. To insure long wearing quality, edges of the piece must be finished.**
 - 3. All dyes and colors must be fixed.**
 - 4. Labels for each items should include washing instructions and list materials produced or purchased.**
- **Baskets:**
 1. Should be tightly woven, with strong bottoms, and strong handles securely attached.
 2. Should 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 and consistent with the design of the object.
 - **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 should not show unless part of design.

- **Crocheted or Knitted Items**

1. Tension should be even and consistently
2. Items must be neatly finished

- **Embroidery**

1. Stitches should be even, with starting and ending threads properly finished and loose threads clipped.
2. Embroidery thread should not show through from underneath (as crossing from one place to another).
3. When work is mounted, puckers should not be visible.
4. The finished article should be well pressed and clean, and if to be hung read to be presented.
5. Sewing standards apply to all embroidery items.

- **Felting**

1. 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.
2. Adornments should be well affixed to the item so as not to come loose and must be an appropriate match to the felted piece (i.e. when felting on silk the fiber should become integrated into the felt sufficiently so that it cannot be pulled loose).
3. Jewelry made of felted work must meet jewelry standards.
4. Sewing standards apply to all embroidery items.

- **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 Gallery's office.
2. All items must be clean and entirely the work of the artisan.
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, 1.5 – 2 inches for cotton.
6. Marking lines and basting should not be visible in the finished item.
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. Pre-printed 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 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 pre-washed.
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 wash cloth 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. Salvage 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 and 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.

▪ Toys

1. Sturdy Glue must not show. Embellishments must be secure.
2. Stuffing must be even and adequate.
3. Sewn items must meet sewing standards

Mark of the Artist:

Artisans are encouraged to permanently sign, stamp, or attach a label to their work. A list of materials produced or purchased must be listed on the label as well as washing instructions. Labeling must comply with Frog Hollow stated juried standards

Aesthetic Considerations:

The work must demonstrate more than technical proficiency and more than the reproduction of a recognized style. Products should express the personal aesthetic and vision of the artisan and demonstrate a coherent stylistic development, with every attention to detail, design, function, and finish. A harmony of intent, process, and result is the measure of successful work.

Health and Safety Guidelines:

The artisan is responsible for assurance that the work meets all federal, state, and local health and safety requirements.

**Standards for fiber arts were used with the resources of the New Hampshire League of Craftsman and the Appalachian Arts Craft Center.*