



Frog Hollow Vermont Craft Gallery

Metal Standards Guidelines

Standard Criteria for all Metal:

Frog Hollow standards for work in metal require that the materials be fundamentally transformed by the metal artists, resulting in finished objects that demonstrate technical fluency, integrity of intent and result, and a clear sense of personal vision. Frog Hollow accepts both utilitarian and non-functional art metal. The work must demonstrate technical proficiency, and should express the personal vision and aesthetic of the maker, containing a coherent stylistic development, with every attention to detail, design, function and finish.

Standards are for forged wrought iron, fabrication and metal sculpture for materials of: iron, steel, copper, brass, stainless steel, and bronze. (Please see jewelry standards for jewelry items). All work must be made in Vermont.

Technical Guidelines:

- **Forged wrought iron (traditional blacksmithing):**

Material is brought to heat, using a forge or torch and hammered to manipulate the surface and the shape. Hammered marks should generally be symmetrical and forged components (tapers, bends, flares) are well-balanced and consistently executed. Work should be uniform in surface texture, free of sharp edges and sharp corners. Joints are generally clean and free of weld splatter (grinding may require reheating to achieve uniform color). Banding may be used. This involves wrapping a piece of metal around another piece or pieces to hold them together. Bands should be tight fitting and ends meet, or should be welded and finished (ground, reheated).

- **Forged welding:**

A traditional technique where two pieces are joined using heat and flux to create a weld.

- **Metal Sculpture:**

Includes casting of various metal, cutting shapes and welding. May use fabrication techniques, which include torch cutting, welding and grinding. Use of patinas, paints, and other surface applications that are appropriate for the piece. Differs from traditional blacksmithing in purpose and intent. If pieces are rough and unfinished, this must be an intentional use by the artist to achieve a certain "look". Obvious seams must still be a quality weld, free of weld splatter and joints must be strong and well made. Two different materials should be welded with appropriate welding rod. Finishes used by the artist or Blacksmith must add to the artistic design or functionality of the piece and be appropriate for its use- interior, exterior, etc.

The use of purchased and found parts should not generally be acceptable unless the finished product differs significantly from the original parts used. These parts should consist of a small percentage of the finished body of work and the design of the piece should not rely on these components for its artistic viability or integrity. These include- cast iron panels and balustrades, scrolls and decorative pieces. Examples of acceptable purchased parts- electrical parts for lamps, finials and shades should be of good quality and be appropriate to the work made by the artist. Natural elements used as added decorative features such as rocks, wood, glass, wire. Added features made by another artist may have to be viewed by a manager or the artisans committee for acceptability.

- **Caste Iron**

Caste iron shall not be acceptable unless designed by the artist and made in Vermont. Castings of sculpture should be done by the artist or in the case of larger pieces, overseen by them in every step. The artist shall understand and be able to explain the casting process, and explain why he or she chose the specific materials and method for their piece. In the case of a casting method not available in a facility in Vermont, the artist must inform Frog Hollow and clearly state where and how it was made for them.