



## Frog Hollow Vermont Craft Gallery

# Wood Standards Guidelines

### **Standard Criteria for all Wood:**

At Frog Hollow juries in which furniture and other wood products are juried, there must be at least one (more would be better) exhibitor member present on the jury who is a woodworker with a good general knowledge of woodworking, relevant to the woodwork being juried. Frog Hollow standards for work in wood require that the wood be fundamentally transformed by the crafts-person, resulting in finished work that demonstrates technical fluency, integrity of intent and a spirited sense of personal vision. Frog Hollow does not draw a hard and fast line between “utility” and “art”. Wood is a craft material of great expressive power, and the primary function of a piece may be expressive or decorative, rather than utilitarian.

### **Technical Guidelines:**

1. A finished appropriate to the intention of the piece.
2. Attention to all areas of the piece, including the back, bottom, and inside.
3. Good quality hardware, well installed
4. As designs and styles may differ greatly, it is most important that each piece has a design and execution with a cohesive overall feeling of quality.
5. The piece should show the maker's spirit and individuality of design. This includes toys and small tabletop objects.
6. Painting and decoration should fit and enhance the form in a way that is integral to the function and expression of the piece.
7. Any purchased parts must be of high quality, well integrated within the work.
8. All furniture pieces, regardless of whether they are of traditional or contemporary design, must be of proper design and construction that allows for seasonal wood movement (expansion / contraction). If pieces are designed properly, they should not crack and joints should not split or separate. This is an important standard of quality, as many amateurish pieces will often crack or split in places due to improper design (no allowing for wood movement). Such pieces may look fine at a jury if they are brand new, but many have issues down the road after spending a change of seasons (and a change in relative humidity) in a gallery or customer's home. Exceptions can be made for pieces (such as sculpture) made of green wood, where cracking may be an inherent and intended part of the piece.

***Some of the specific things generally not accepted are:***

1. Poorly or not completely sanded surfaces, machine or hand tool “tear out” areas (unless intentionally part of the overall concept of the piece, such as rustic pieces or reclaimed wood), poorly applied finishes such as brush applied polyurethane, surfaces that are not polished, have runs, dust, etc.
2. Anywhere on the piece with glue squeeze out, machine marks, low quality hardware and materials, or overall lack of care.

- **Wood Carving**

Frog Hollow accepts abstract, realistic, interpretive and folk carving. Finished work should demonstrate technical fluency, integrity of intent and result, and a spirited sense of personal vision. Craftsmanship refers to the technical skills involved in carving: joinery, sculpting, painting and finishing techniques and their execution. Craftsmanship should be consistent throughout the entire piece. Artistry of a piece enliven design and composition. Presentation, innovation and creativity all come into play. Line, form, content, color, mass and movement should all be working together to create an integrated whole.

- **Aesthetic Criteria**

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

- **Commercial Production Techniques**

Frog Hollow's focus is on work made by hand by individual craftspeople. However, Frog Hollow acknowledges that to improve efficiency and production, some craftspeople will wish to employ tools, technology and other people to their best advantage. Production techniques used solely for high volume output are unacceptable for Frog Hollow standards, if such techniques do not add to the overall quality and design, or if they are not performed with all the skill and craftsmanship required for exhibitor acceptance. The end product should not be dominated or limited by a machine's capability. However the work is produced, it must speak to the individual crafts-person's creative spirit.

- **Components and Accessories**

Components or accessories are parts that are not made in the studio of the juried Frog Hollow member, which are incorporated into craft objects. Such components and/or accessories are acceptable and appropriate only if: they are of high quality construction and materials; they do not visually dominate the finished object; and they would not be reasonably interpreted, based upon appearance, as objects created by juried members.

- **Truth in labeling**

Juried craftspeople are encouraged to permanently sign or stamp their work and to

provide supplemental materials that educate the public on craft and process. If a piece is a cast resin duplicate of a carved wood original, it must be properly labeled in a visible place so that it is clear to the customer that they are not buying a wood objects. This is particularly important in the case of cast resin that is painted, as it can have the same grain pattern as the wood, with no way for the layman to know it is not actually wood. It is also helpful if exhibitors provide instructions for proper care of the piece. This is helpful for gallery staff while the piece is on display, as well as for customers once the piece is purchased. Craftspeople must comply with any specific legal requirements for labeling their craft.

Reclaimed wood - Wood that has been recycled and reused to build new pieces. Reclaimed wood can come from old buildings, old furniture or other things made out of wood that have been dismantled for reuse.

Tear out- A chipped surface on wood that results from the grain of the wood being listed up and chipped away by a tool, rather than being cut smoothly as intended. This can happen when the surface of wood is planed (either with a hand plane or machine planer), and also when it is run through a joiner, or table saw. The drilling of holes can also result in tear out (at the top edge or underside of the hole) if not performed properly, as can certain procedures performed with a router. Some woods are more likely to tear out than others (such as highly figured woods with wavy grain), but proper steps can be taken to eliminate or reduce tear out. Tear out should be removed by scraping or sanding, unless it is an intentional aesthetic element of the piece, as in some turnings and sculptural pieces.