

Black Sheep Weavers' Fiber Guild

Guidelines for Genres of Fiber Arts

Basketry

Beading

Dyed Fabric

Embroidery

Handmade Paper

Handspun Yarn

Knitting and Crocheting

Needle Felting

Quilting

Rug-Hooking

Sewing

Weaving

Wet-Felting/Nuno

<http://www.blacksheepweavers.com/>

November 2013
Updated September 2016

Basketry Guidelines

- The basket must demonstrate technical fluency, integrity of intent, and be structurally sound.
- The basket must be constructed to be suitable for its intended purpose: e.g. sturdy with securely attached handle(s) if meant to carry weight, smooth if meant to hold yarn, flat bottom if meant to stand-alone in upright position, etc.
- The basket must be made of good-quality materials appropriate for its primary function – expressive, decorative or utilitarian.
- The weaving ends should be secured and finished to make them as inconspicuous as possible.
- Good finishing techniques (packing the basket well, trimming hairs, reshaping if necessary, etc.) should be used.

Adopted April 11, 2013

Beading Guidelines

- Beaded items must demonstrate technical skills, artistic vision, and be structurally sound.
- Beaded items must be original in design.
- Beaded items must be made of good-quality materials.
- Beaded items created on fiber or utilizing a fiber process (i.e., bead-weaving, bead-braiding, bead-embroidery, or bead-crochet) are acceptable. Bead-stringing is not acceptable.
- Beaded items must be well-executed, with no thread-ends showing.
- Beading should be consistently tight as appropriate to the beading process.

Adopted November 7, 2013

Dyed Fabric Guidelines

- Hand dyed fabric/wool should not bleed.
- There should be no dye flecks of undissolved color.
- Dyed products should be void of undyed white areas, unless they are specifically part of a design.
- Contents must be labeled with yardage and type of fiber.
- Instructions for cleaning and care must be included.

Adopted May 9, 2013

Embroidery Guidelines

- Embroidered items must demonstrate technical skill, artistic vision, and be structurally sound.
- Embroidered items must be original in design. Kits, purchased patterns, and unoriginal computer-generated designs are not acceptable.
- Embroidered items may be created by hand or by machine.
- Embroidered items must be made of good-quality materials.
- Original designs must show artistic excellence in the selection and the execution of the stitches.
- Color selection and patterns must be pleasing components of the embroidered items.
- There should be no loose threads on the backs of the embroidered items, and thread-ends should be finished securely.
- The backs of embroidered items should be finished.

Adopted November 7, 2013

Handmade Paper

- The item must demonstrate technical fluency, integrity of intent and be structurally sound.
- The item must be constructed in a manner suitable for its intended purpose.
- Handmade paper can have a deckle edge, or be torn or cut.
- The contents should be labeled with the types of fiber used (*i.e.*, cotton linters, bamboo, silk fibers, mulberry, etc.).

Adopted October 3, 2013

Handspun Yarn Guidelines

- Each skein should be labeled with its yardage, weight and type of fiber.
- Each skein should be tied so that strands do not become tangled.
- For display purposes can either be left in long skeins or twisted and knotted.
- (Skeins will probably be hung. Bring hooks for your skeins and make sure that you have some
- type of string, fabric strip or yarn to use to place the skein(s) onto your hooks.

Adopted February 7, 2013

Knitting and Crocheting Guidelines

- The knitted/crocheted item must be finished as appropriate for the item and must demonstrate technical fluency and integrity of intent.
- Traditional and contemporary innovations in patterns and yarns are acceptable.
- Traditional designs and classic styles must be skillfully reproduced.
- Basic knitting/crocheting patterns may be used for shape and style.
- Yarn selection, colors and knitting/crocheting patterns must be integral and pleasing components of the item.
- Original designs must show artistic excellence in the selection and execution of the stitches.
- Buttons, buttonholes (finished edges) and closures must be firmly attached.
- The fiber content must be labeled with both the type and the percent of fiber.
- Instructions for cleaning and care for both functional and decorative pieces must be included.

Adopted April 11, 2013

Needle Felting Guidelines

- The surface of the felted item must be very firm.
- Any embellishments to the felted item must be firmly attached.
- All sections of a felted vignette must be attached to the whole.
- Any felted work attached to items of clothing must be firmly felted and securely attached to the clothing item. (It must not rub off, ball up, or come loose in any way.)
- The tag must indicate that the felted item is not intended to be a toy for children.
- Instructions for cleaning and care are to be included.

Adopted March 7, 2013

Quilting Guidelines

- The quilted items must demonstrate technical fluency, integrity of intent, and be structurally sound.
- Fabric selection, colors, and stitching must be integral and pleasing components of the item.
- The item must be constructed in a manner suitable for its intended purpose.
- Edges/seams must be finished appropriately for the item.
- Pieced, appliqué, and wholecloth techniques are acceptable.
- Original designs must show artistic excellence in their selection and execution.
- Traditional designs and styles must be skillfully reproduced.
- Embellishments to the item must be firmly attached.
- Credit must be given for third-party quilting.
- Items designed for hanging must include appropriate sleeves, loops, etc.
- It is recommended that quilts be labelled permanently on the back with the artist's name, the quilter's name, the date of completion, and the name of the pattern.
- The fiber content of both surface fabrics and of the batting must be included.
- Instructions for cleaning and care for both functional and decorative pieces must be included.

Adopted May 9, 2013

Rug-Hooking Guidelines

- The item must demonstrate technical fluency, integrity of intent, and be structurally sound.
- The item must be constructed in a manner suitable for its intended purpose.
- The piece must be properly finished and steamed.
- There should be no raw edges on the backing.
- Framed pieces must be "hanging-ready".
- Unframed wall-hangings must have a rod pocket or hanging loops.
- 3-dimensional pieces should have inconspicuous seams, be secured to a base (if needed), or be ready to hang.
- If the piece is not an original design, it is recommended that the item be labeled on the back with the name of the design, the designer, and the artist who hooked the piece.
- The contents should be labeled with the percent(s) and type(s) of fiber.
- Instructions for cleaning and care, for both functional and decorative pieces, should be included.

Adopted September 5, 2013

Sewing Guidelines

- The sewn item must demonstrate technical fluency and integrity of intent; it must also be structurally sound.
- Fabric selection, colors, and stitching must be integral and pleasing components of the item.
- The item must be made of good-quality materials and be constructed in a manner suitable for its intended purpose. Stitching may be done by hand and/or by machine.
- Sewn items must be original in design. Purchased patterns and computer-generated designs may be used if credit is given to the pattern-maker (including the pattern number/unique identification) and if the product is substantially altered from the original design. The use of kits is not acceptable.
- Original designs must show artistic excellence in their selection and execution.
- Garment fabrics must be pre-washed/shrunk with appropriate apparel soaps or detergents.
- If dyes are used in garments, fabrics should be treated to be colorfast.
- Edges/seams must be finished appropriately for the item. There must be no loose thread-ends on the item.
- Embellishments to the item must be firmly attached and neatly finished. Care requirements of the embellishments and the stitching must be compatible with those of the garment.
- Zippers and fasteners must be installed correctly, lie flat and smooth, and be free from bulk.
- No construction markings should be visible on the item.
- No pins should be left in the item.
- Garments should be free from wrinkles unless part of the design.
- Garments and wearables must be sized appropriately and identified on tag.
- The fiber content of the item must be included on the tag.
- Instructions for cleaning and care must be included on the tag.

Adopted September 8, 2016

Weaving Guidelines

- The item should be woven with structurally sound materials.
- There should be no errors in weaving.
- The woven item must be sound and appropriate for its intended use.
- There should be no loose threads or knots in the warp/weft (unless knots are part of the weave structure).
- The item must be washed/fulled if it is intended for functional use.
- All edges and hems should be finished whenever possible using techniques such as braiding, twisting, twining, knotting, serging, fringe or hemmed by hand. The technique applied will depend on the desired edge finish.
- The contents should be labeled including the percent of fiber content.
- Instructions for cleaning and care for both functional and decorative pieces should be included.

Adopted February 7, 2013

Wet Felting/Nuno Guidelines

- Functional felt should have no area of loose fiber that would catch or fray unless it is part of the design process.
- Felt should be firm enough to hold together without shifting fibers.
- Nuno felt should firmly attached to the fabric.
- Nuno felted fabric contents should be labeled with yardage and type of fiber.
- Instructions for cleaning and care are to be included.

Adopted March 7, 2013