

Langley Weavers and Spinners Guild

Standards for Jurying

Revised 2015

Objectives

It is the intent of the Guild to emphasize the importance of achieving and maintaining the highest possible standards of excellence in the art and craftsmanship of our Guild.

Therefore, our objectives are as follows:

- To promote and encourage the art and craft of weaving, spinning and dyeing (as in Article 2 of the Constitution).
- To promote the assurance of quality in every item that uses the Langley Weavers and Spinners Guild label.

General standards for all submitted items

Fibres and materials used should have compatible properties and be suitable for the purpose of the article. For example, table linens should be washable; rugs should be suitably durable, baskets should be labeled if they are for decorative purposes only.

The Guild promotes creativity in design. Artisans are encouraged to explore their originality in colour, design and function within the standards set by the Guild. Ultimately, the design of items must be suitable to the fibre type and the function of the article.

Finishing standards

The principles and practices of finishing apply equally to weaving, spinning, knitting, and felting/fulling. All items submitted for jurying must be finished neatly and securely as appropriate for the article. Additionally they must:

- be labeled correctly, including information regarding technique and fibre information.
- be washed and pressed or blocked as suitable for the item.
- have inconspicuous machine or hand-stitching unless used as an embellishment.
- have secure and even fastening of fringes which are suitable and in proportion to the article.
- have linings compatible with the function and design of the article.
- in the case of cushions, have inner linings and be filled according to government regulations.

- for wall hangings, have mounting/hanging materials attached which are an integral and appropriate part of the design.
- all be the same size if they are part of a set – tea towels, pair of socks, set of napkins.

Weaving standards

In general, the weave, pattern and sett for woven items must be suitable for the intended use.

All woven articles must have:

- no threading errors, skips and/or treadling errors.
- no knots in warp or weft. All joins must be inconspicuous. On the backs of traditional tapestries it is permissible to leave ends of weft hanging free.
- a consistent beat.
- good edges and even selvages.

Spinning standards

These standards will be applied to hand spun yarns which are sold in skeins or used in weaving, dyeing, knitting or other fibre techniques.

- All skeins for sale must be labelled. Labeling must include fibre content, weight and length.
- Skeins must be tied securely and neatly.
- Must exhibit uniformity of spinning technique, for example, consistently even or deliberately textural.
- Yarn must be washed.
- Yarn must be a continuous length with no knots.
- Must contain at least one hand spun singles yarn.
- Yarns must be free of stains and foreign matter.

Dyeing standards

Hand dyed yarns must:

- be hand dyed by a Guild member.
- be washed and free of residual dyes.

Only hand dyed, handspun skeins can be sold on the Main Floor of the Guild Sale. Hand dyed, commercially spun skeins must be sold in the Wool Room.

Knitting and crochet standards

The fibre within an article must be the major focus of a knitted or crocheted piece. To that end, acceptable knitted or crocheted items must incorporate yarns that are either:

- 60% hand spun meeting the hand spinning standards of the Guild or,
- 60% hand dyed by a Guild member meeting the hand dyeing standards of the Guild. These yarns can be hand spun or if commercially spun must be at least 60% natural fibre or,
- 60% locally raised or grown by a Guild member.

Felting/fulling standards

Felted items are to be distinguished from *fulled* items.

Felt is defined as a non-woven material which is created by the compression of fibres, with the help of moist heat and/or rubbing but without the use of a binding compound.

Fulling is defined as a woven or knitted material of wool and/or other fibres which have been compressed through moist heat and rubbing. Light fulling is an integral part of the weaving process; this section of standards applies to heavily fulled articles.

- Needle felting may be done with single or multiple needles.
- Fulled knitted articles must meet the Guild Standards for knitted articles.
- Felted/fulled items must be uniformly felted or fulled. For example, no thick or thin spots unless variation is an obvious design element.
- Articles of clothing must be firm enough to withstand wear.

The process of jurying

The Standards and Jury Committee's duties are outlined in the Standing Rules. Members are reminded that all items for Guild sponsored sales and exhibitions are first to be juried to ensure that they meet the above Standards.

Any member who wishes to ensure that their work is acceptable may request a review by the Committee at any Guild meeting. A member may also request an informal critique of their work from the Committee if they are unsure that it meets the above Standards.

In the case of Christmas ornaments or other small items, it is advised that a sample of each different ornament or small item be submitted to the Committee before making a quantity of them for sale.

In the case of pre-packaged items, for example gift sets, the items to be juried must be presented to the Committee before they are packaged.

Items which have been juried and accepted for sale may be submitted for sale for three consecutive years. Members are responsible for keeping records of jury dates of their own sale items.

Juried items that, in the opinion of a quorum of the Committee, have not met the above Standards will be returned to the submitter with an explanation of the reasons for refusal. Items refused may be corrected and resubmitted for jurying.

Final decisions on a juried item rest with the Committee Chair and three committee members.

Artisan sale guidelines

Members of the Guild acknowledge that the Artisans' Sale is held annually both as a benefit to members and as a fundraiser for the Guild. Funds are raised primarily through the entrance fees, the silent auction, and local artisanal vendors. Other fund raising ideas, such as charging a commission may be introduced by approval of the membership.

As this is our main fund raiser, every Guild member is encouraged to participate in this effort. Members who wish to sell items in the Artisans' Sale are responsible for the following:

- Providing item(s) for the silent auction or door prize (this can include non fibre-related items). Participation in a group effort, for example a blanket, is acceptable.
- Participating in the running of the Sale, for example in set-up, take-down, cash desk, demonstrating, or sales assisting.
- Acknowledging that the Guild is not responsible for loss of property displayed and/or offered for sale.

- Having their sale items juried at the meeting of the Standards and Jury Committee.
- Filling out a copy of the sales record for the Cash Desk Supervisor and making a copy for their records.

Wool Room standards

The Wool Room at the Guild's Artisans' Sale has been established for members of the Guild who are also suppliers of fibre, yarns, equipment and/or instructional material.

The Wool Room provides raw materials for the crafts of weaving, spinning, dyeing, knitting, felting, basket making and other associated fibre crafts. Finished items which would normally be offered for sale in the Artisans' Sale may be used for display but may not be sold in the Wool Room.

- Requests for table space must be submitted to the Wool Room Coordinator and are subject to space availability. There is a limit of one table per vendor and the vendor must be a Guild member of more than one year's standing.
- All participants in the Wool Room will sign a waiver acknowledging that the Guild carries liability insurance but that property insurance is the responsibility of the participant.
- Each participant will be responsible for their own cash.
- Items which conflict with articles offered by the Artisans' Sale participants will not be allowed.
- All items entered for sale in the Wool Room must meet the Wool Room Standards and will be reviewed by the Wool Room Coordinator or designate.
- Each participant is required to submit one item to the silent auction or door prize.

Acceptable items for sale in the Wool Room include:

- Supplies and instructional material for weaving, spinning and other associated fibre crafts.
- Fibre that has been commercially spun, carded or put into rovings.
- Fibre locally raised or grown by members: unlimited amounts of cleaned or processed fibre are allowed. Up to 12 pounds of raw fibre per person is allowed to be on display at any one time.
- Hand dyed fibre, unprocessed or processed, either commercially or hand prepared, is acceptable and must meet Guild Dyeing Standards.

Processed Fibre and Yarns:

- Labeling must contain fibre content, weight and length. Hand dyed skeins must meet the Guild standards for dyeing.
- Commercially spun yarns may be labeled "local" only if at least 60% of the fibre is locally raised or grown by a Guild member.