



Media Specific Guidelines for Fibre (Weaving)

The purpose of the guideline is to ensure the continued acceptance/inclusion of well crafted ceramic pieces into the Market Registry, reflecting NSDCC's ongoing commitment to the development of fine craft in Nova Scotia

1. DESIGN

A successful object must be the result of careful designing, with obvious thoughtfulness used in determining the proportions, structural integrity, materials intended use, finishes, colours and decoration.

Thoughtful designing should exhibit:

- Appropriate proportions within the forms
- Appropriate choice of materials for intended use
- Suitable choice of process for fabricating the piece showing a high level of skill
- Unique visual appearance reflecting maker

2. PRODUCTION QUALITY AND TECHNIQUE

Whether produced in quantity or as an individual piece, the object must reflect excellent skill and production quality, being visibly well conceived and expertly executed.

CONSTRUCTION

- Density of warp and weft should be appropriately balanced. The final cloth should exhibit the drape or stiffness needed for end use
- Selvages should be firm and straight
- Weave structures and yarns should be chosen to enhance the appearance, 'hand' or the finished cloth
- Overshot weaves and tartans should be beaten in a way to produce/reproduce the 90 and 45 degree angles of the traditional cloth
- In weft face tapestries and rugs, the cotton or linen warp should be covered. The end fabrics should be firm, but not beaten so vigorously as to be spongy. If the warp is intended to show, this fibre should blend appropriately with the weft
- Weaver-dyed yarns should be stable in the light and washing conditions expected in the use of the final piece
- No knots should show on the surface of the cloth
- Clothing should be comfortable to wear — should be at 'ease' to finished piece. Neither a rippling, indicating too much weft, or a tight appearance indicating not sufficient weft should be apparent

FINISHING

- Cutting and sewing of clothing, accessories and home furnishing should be done with care
- Fringes should be secure and finished in a way that complements the piece
- Cloth for clothing, bedding and table linens should be appropriately finished (perhaps shrunk and washed) so warp and weft 'become cloth'
- Wall hanging and/or sculpture should be neatly finished with hardware and hanging devices in place
- Innovative or experimental work may not follow traditional criteria, but work should be stable and well-finished

3. SOURCE OF INSPIRATION

The design of an object must be original, or an adaptation of a traditional design which demonstrates the unique skills of the maker and reflects an individual identity of design. The object must be designed and fabricated by the applying maker, or by employees under the direct supervision of that person.

Since, in reproduction, there is no design input, the onus of judgment is upon technical skill alone. Copying currently produced work is not acceptable.

While giving a sense of historical context from which a traditional adaptation has come, the pieces should clearly reflect a personal interpretation.

4. MATERIAL USED

The object must be constructed of materials which are of high quality and are appropriate to the structural integrity, utility and visual appearance of the object.

Materials should be appropriate to the intent of the pieces, both in purpose and visual appearance.

Work must demonstrate a level of technical competence and understanding of the materials used.

5. COMMERCIALY FABRICATED CONTENT

Commercially fabricated elements in objects, including packaging, must be subordinate to the overall design of the object. Objects packaged and sold as a prepackaged unit are defined as gift packages and must be submitted for assessment in the ready-for-sale state.

Commercially fabricated elements (buttons, bias tapes, labels, zippers, closing) must be of fine quality, and metal findings should not rust. Clothing (especially sleep wear), bedding, stuffed objects and wall hangings for public spaces should be labeled as required by law.

6. SPECIFIC EXCLUSIONS

New forms and innovations will be considered by the Standards Committee. Unfinished items or kits for consumer assembly are not considered acceptable for NSDCC Markets.

Commercial pillow forms are acceptable for inside of cushions.

7. IDENTIFICATION/LABELLING

All articles must be labeled with the maker's name, address and the pertinent instructions to the consumer concerning care and maintenance, as well as any information to the consumer required by law.

Labeling for clothing must have name and address, generic name and percentage of fibre content. Sections must be declared separately (i.e. Bodice — rayon, Skirt — wool).

NSDCC recommends labeling for care of weaving, etc, especially those made with natural fibres.