



Media Specific Guidelines for Leather

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

Care must be taken to see that functional work must function well.

Garments must suit the leather medium, be well-constructed and finished, and fit well.

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.

- All cuts should be clean and continuous
- Dyeing should be even and tested for permanence, and the flesh side (reverse side) should be clean and have no dye drips
- Edges should be beveled, dyed, dressed and burnished where appropriate
- For other types of construction, seam areas should be skived (thinned) and furred
- No pen marks or glue visible inside or outside the finished item
- Parts that are combined into one article should be matched as to consistent grain, suppleness and colour
- Commercially made stamps may be used to create original designs
- Brands, scars or any other range marks must be completely healed to be used in any article
- Hand stitching must be evenly done, and the size of thread and stitches should be appropriate to the item
- Machine stitching should be carefully done, with appropriate stitch size, thread, top and bottom thread tension balanced, etc, with no missed stitches
- The leather must not be perforated by backstitching, or by very fine stitches close together
- Top stitching has equal margins from edges
- Start and stop of stitching should be well secured, and in suitable place on the item

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.

Commercial garment patterns are acceptable if suitable for leather.

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.

The choice of leather used in an article must demonstrate a level of technical competence and understanding of the material.

Split leather is acceptable where strain will not rip the leather and the structural integrity of an article is not compromised.

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.

Findings and hardware should be high quality and chosen for appropriateness, or balance, or match to the appearance and function of the item.

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.

Kits are not acceptable.

Lacing should be leather, not plastic.

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.

A "Care and Content" label must accompany leather garments.