

MEDIA SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

Rughooking

The purpose of the guideline is to ensure the continued acceptance/inclusion of well crafted pieces into the Market Registry, reflecting Craft Nova Scotia'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

Design for rug hooking is almost limitless, its restriction being that a rug for the floor have even surface; that a wall hanging hang freely from a secure rod or hanging device. Although the craft has a strong basis in traditional design, original concepts should reflect the maker's own interpretation of the medium.

Proportions should suit the intended use and location of the finished piece (is. Long, narrow runner for a hallway, a square or round rug for a specific space, a semi-circular threshold rug, etc.

Colour in rug making is a major quality and should reflect the personal choices and inherent knowledge of the maker. Again, this choice should be made with the proposed use and location of the rug in mind.

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.

The hooked piece must reflect excellence in technique and uniqueness of colour and design. Work should be one-of-a-kind and reflect the maker's personal ingenuity and respect for the craft.

Use of texture through material choices and techniques can and should be an integral part of the design and colour planning. Texture can be achieved through materials chosen or manipulation of stitches and fibres used, in height and width of strands. Surface texture on wall hangings should reflect ingenuity and thoughtful interpretation of design elements.

Proper finishing techniques vary, but edges must be particularly firm and thoroughly bound since this can be the weakest element in the wearing properties of either a rug or hanging. Some sculpturing of raised hooking is acceptable on a floor covering if it is low and the function of the piece is not compromised.

Wall hangings should be well bound, lined, or firmly finished at the edges in a manner appropriate to the designer's intention. Finish and details should show the utmost competence in the medium. Solid hanging devices should assure the piece hangs evenly. Rug corners should be mitered and lie flat on the floor. All surfaces of rugs should be even and the ends of strands should be clipped to surface height.

REVERSE SIDE: stitches should adequately cover backing material.

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. An adaptation of a traditional design should reflect a strong personal influence and interpretation. The historical elements of a traditional adaptation should be clearly evident; an original approach and personal interpretation should be the major consideration.

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.

- Recycled materials are acceptable, indeed desirable, since their use is a basic concept of the rug hooking tradition, but materials must be of the highest quality available.
- Materials should be over-dyed or colour removed from found materials to achieve enhancing effects for designed results.
- Appropriate choice of material is essential to the wear and care of the finished object.
- Binding materials should be appropriate in colour and width

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.

- Hanging devices should be strong enough to support the weight of a hooked piece. They must be unobtrusive and should only be evident if they have been planned as an enhancing element of the overall design.
- Framing is not desirable, but if used, the hooking should not be behind glass.
- Rugs should be bound with proper woven rug binding.

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 Craft NS Markets.

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.

The maker's name or initials and the date completed should be an integral part of the design and hooked in if possible, particularly into a rug.