

The Guelph Guild of Handweavers and Spinners Standards for Sales and Shows

All persons submitting work to be sold or shown through the GHS must be members in good standing.

The work must be handwoven or handspun by the person submitting the finished piece. Knit or crochet items must be of handspun yarn. Felted items are acceptable, as are fleece angels, fleece sheep, god's eyes, baskets and paper weaving, kumihimo, bobbin lace, temari balls, and dragon boats.

Work will not be juried on artistic merit or design decisions, such as colour use or style. Certain shows may require special criteria for acceptance.

Each new member in good standing will receive a set of standards and guidelines with their membership. Copies of standards and guidelines will be placed in the library, with photocopies of helpful material on finishing, tapestry installation, jury process, and other relevant articles and updated from time to time.

Teams of three jurors (from the membership, including new members and beginners) will assemble to check items being submitted for sale. The jurors will be responsible for highlighting any problems with sale items (including labelling). If the item can be brought up to standard before the show date, every effort should be made to allow the member to fix the fault and resubmit the item. Each jury member will receive a set of standards and a checklist to help in the jurying process. Sale participants are expected to assist.

HANDWOVEN ARTICLES

1. No threading or treadling errors, no skips, no knots in the warp or weft, unless part of the technique used or the design.
2. Weft ends should be spliced or woven back in unobtrusively.
3. Selvedges should be straight, beat should be even.
4. Warp ends should have an appropriate finish. Fringes should be trimmed and combed. (See individual items in the Guidelines).
5. Commercial notions are acceptable. The majority of the item must be handwoven; leather trim, ultra-suede binding, or commercial fabric as accents such as patch pockets, and knitted cuffs and collars using commercial yarns are fine. A garment of commercial fabric with handwoven yoke and cuffs is not acceptable at the guild sales.
6. Seams should be neatly and carefully sewn by hand or machine in an unobtrusive manner. Top stitching is a design element.
7. All articles should be finished, fulled, pressed, blocked and/ or dry-cleaned. Hanging devices must be installed on tapestries and wall pieces.
8. All sale items must have hang tags. The tags should have the name of the maker, description of the item, percent of fibre content and size. Special qualities of the item should be noted - e.g. ikat dyed, handspun weft. Care instructions should include care of the notions - e.g. porcelain or wooden buttons should be removed when washing the item. The guild code numbers must also appear on the tag.

HANDSPUN YARNS

1. Natural and synthetic fibres that are processed and spun by hand will be called handspun; yarns that are spun by hand and then plied with commercial yarn and threads must have at least one ply that is handspun and must be clearly labelled as to content.
2. Yarns should be neatly skeined and tied with figure eight ties.
3. The yarn should be cleaned and washed with the twist well set.
4. The thickness and twist should be appropriate for the yarn and the intended use.
5. Unsound yarns or obvious errors such as overtwist, undertwist, separated splices and slubs in an otherwise smooth yarn, are not acceptable.
6. Suggested end use should be stated.
7. Kits must be complete with original instructions for making the item. All yarn in these kits must be handspun.
8. All sale items must have hang tags. The tags should have the name of the maker, description of the item, percent of fibre content, yardage and weight. Special qualities of the yarn should be noted - e.g. rainbow dyed, Samoyed hair. Care instructions must be on the tag. The guild code numbers must also appear on the tag.

KNITTED AND CROCHETED ITEMS

1. At least 90% of the yarn in knitted or crocheted items must be handspun, according to the definition stated in HANDSPUN YARNS. Accents up to 10% of commercial yarn or hand-constructed fancy yarns that fall outside of this definition are allowed.
2. Spinning technique must be appropriate to the article - e.g. angora must have sufficient twist the it does not separate.
3. Yarn ends must be woven or sewn in.
4. Dropped stitches, pattern mistakes are not acceptable.
5. Items must be well constructed with neat seams and good edges.
6. Machine knit items of handspun yarn are acceptable and must be labelled as MACHINE KNIT.
7. All sale items must have hang tags. The tags should have the name of the maker, description of the item, percentage of handspun, percentage of fibre content, and size. Special qualities of the article should be noted - e.g. space-dyed, Shetland lace. State if the yarn is handspun plied with commercial yarn. Machine knit or hand knit should appear on the tag. Care instructions must be on the tag. Care instructions should include care of the notions - e.g. wooden buttons should be removed when washing the item. The guild code numbers must also appear on the tag.

HAND-DYEING

1. All dyes should be well set, light and wash fast.
2. State which dyes and mordants are used - e.g. black walnut with tin.
3. Hand-dyeing on commercial yarn to be sold as skeins or as a kit is not acceptable.
4. Care instructions must be given - e.g. do not place in direct sun.
5. Differentiate between natural dyeing and synthetic dyes on any dyed item.

BEAD WORK

1. Bead work including bead weaving, peyote stitch, square stitch, brick stitch, right angle weave, netting stitch (also called chevron chain), herringbone stitch (also called ndebele stitch).
2. Any variation on the above stitches.

SILK FUSION

1. Items made from silk fusion may include clothing accessories, home decor.

FIBRE PRODUCERS

1. Skeins or finished articles from fibre producers must have a handmade component - e.g. dyeing, hand knitting or crocheting.
2. Finished articles from commercial kits are not allowed (as in paragraph 7 of HANDSPUN YARNS above).
3. These items must be labelled to separate them from handspun (i.e. commercially spun) and specify dyeing procedure.

GUIDELINES AND SUGGESTIONS

BLANKETS AND AFGHANS may have hems or twisted, braided or hemstitched fringe. Handspun and knit afghans should be well blocked. They should have been washed, brushed if appropriate, and well pressed.

CUSHIONS, PILLOW AND FURNISHINGS should use yams and weave structures that wear well. All weaving must be appropriately finished. Scotch-Guard may be used. Upholstered pieces must be well constructed. Cushion and pillow covers may be zippered or sewn closed. Pillow forms may be custom made or commercial. Instruction for care should include the care of the pillow form. Composition of the pillow form must be stated on the hangtag.

GARMENTS AND ACCESSORIES should have hems, knotted or hemstitched fringe. Yam ends and sewing thread should be clipped off, fringes trimmed and combed. Each item should be washed and pressed, blocked, or dry-cleaned. The articles should have been finished in the manner that is given in the instructions to the client, e.g. a garment that is to be dry-cleaned should have been to the cleaner once. Garments should have a size - S, M, or L. Garments to wear next to the skin should be soft and not scratchy. Outerwear may be lined, charge at least \$15 more. A garment should look almost as good on the inside as the outside. Finishing details such as enclosed seams add to the quality of the garment. If you have included notions that have to be removed during washing, include a small amount of the yam that was used to sew it on. This is also a considerate gesture for handspun articles to repair seams.

PLACEMATS, RUNNERS AND TABLE LINENS may be hemmed, hemstitched or machine sewn (with straight stitch in matching thread). They should be washed by machine, dried in the dryer (or instructions on how to dry them) and well pressed. Articles to be machine washed and machine dried should have been through that treatment. Sets of placemats should be of the same size.

RUGS must have an appropriate finish, knotted or braided fringe, hemmed or sewn back in. Hemstitching alone is not appropriate. Rugs should be well blocked. Rugs which are larger than 4' by 6' must have been tested by a lab.

TAPESTRIES AND WALL PIECES should have an appropriate warp finish, such as a hem or finished fringe. The piece should be well blocked. Weft ends may be sewn in at the back. The hanging device must be included and ready for installation.

YARDAGE should have tabby heading at both ends and be secured either with hemstitching or by machine with straight stitch in a matching colour. The piece must be washed, dried and well pressed, or dry cleaned, or sent out to be commercially finished and steamed.

YARNS which are spun with a core of commercial yam or fancy yam that have a commercial yam or thread as a binder, are considered handspun for this purpose as previously described. They may be used as a design element in a woven, knit or crochet piece, if adequately described.

Remember that the most important standard to meet is good craftsmanship. Neatness counts! Use the iron or yam blocker. Look the item over carefully before you submit and most problems with never arise.