



Weavers' Guild of Rochester, Inc.

enhancing lives through study and creative expression in weaving and the fiber arts

HOLIDAY SALE SCREENING STANDARDS

Some years ago, the Holiday Sale Committee made a number of changes to the sale Prospectus in the interest of improving both the quality and the security of items on display. These Screening Standards have similar aims but address specific features and techniques of the various media represented at our sale. In addition to observing the general and specific requirements for your own sale items, please read the current Prospectus in the Sale Packet carefully before registering, as your participation in the sale requires acceptance of the policies stated there.

On the day of your screening appointment, please be on time for check-in. If you are late or miss your scheduled appointment, you will have to wait for an open time slot or return at a later time. Please print out two copies of your inventory list and bring one copy to check-in/screening; retain the second for your records and bring it to check-out to verify your sold and unsold items. If you have any questions about screening, please contact Gretchen Wheelock (gwheelock@esm.rochester.edu).

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL FIBER ITEMS

- Originality and fine craftsmanship in the application of a given fiber technique should figure prominently in items submitted. If commercial fabric or recycled material is used, there should be significant originality in its treatment.
- Items made to exact pattern specifications (as from a kit or unmodified commercial pattern), cannot be accepted.
- Materials, construction, and finishing must be well suited to the end use of the item.
- All fiber items must be clean, pressed (as appropriate), odor/fragrance-free, and display-ready.
- Hang-tags should list fiber content and recommended care. If an additional item, such as a shawl pin, is included in the price of a garment, please note this fact on the tag and inventory list.
- Hang tags must be securely attached with strong thread—no straight pins, please!
- In the case of scarf blanks or recycled clothing/fabric, please remove all commercial labels. Note the use of recycled materials and upcycled items on the hang-tag and inventory sheet.

SPECIFIC CRITERIA BY MEDIUM

Handwoven Items (Screeners will lay out pieces and check both sides):

1. The item must be well-constructed and the weave structure appropriate for the intended use (e.g., long floats are acceptable in wall hangings, but not in placemats or baby items).
2. Items with threading, treadling, or denting errors are not acceptable.
3. Hems must be neat, without puckering, and carefully sewn by hand or machine.
4. Selvedges must be even, with no loops or excessive draw-in.
5. Seam and fringe finishes should be appropriate for the planned use.
6. See above, "General Expectations for all fiber items."

Knitted/Crocheted items:

1. Stitches must be even with no mistakes in pattern or color.
2. Ends must be woven in (not knotted) and unlikely to come loose.
3. Items must be blocked where appropriate.
4. Sleeves, hems, collar points, borders, etc. must be even and symmetrical, except where asymmetry is part of the design.
5. Tension must be uniform throughout the item unless dictated otherwise by the design.
6. Seams of hand-knitted pieces must be securely joined and finished, whether by hand or machine; if cut, edges should be stabilized.
7. Screeners reserve the right to limit the number of "Quick-knits" on needles larger than #13.
8. See above, "General Expectations for all fiber items."

Sewn (Quilted, Pieced, Embroidered) items:

1. Seams and linings must be neatly finished with no loose threads.
2. Beginnings and endings of stitching must be stabilized.
3. Cut edges of seams must be stabilized to prevent unraveling (as with zigzag stitching, serging, overcasting, etc.).
4. Decorative stitching must be neat, without puckering.
5. Knots, unless part of the design, must be hidden.
6. Fabrics and trims should be harmonious and of good quality.
7. Where appropriate, machine-sewn items should be tagged to identify handwoven and/or hand-dyed fabrics, as well as recycled or repurposed materials.
8. See p.1, "General Expectations for all fiber items."

Wet-Felted, Nuno-Felted and Needle-Felted items:

1. Items should be firmly and completely felted – not spongy, heavy, overly thick, or with individual hairs showing on the surface, unless as part of the surface design for a fully felted piece.

2. If cut and not finished, the edges of the felt should be dense and neat, “healed,” if possible. If not cut, the irregularity of the edge can be an effective design element.
3. Needle-felted items should be finished by wet-felting and should meet the above criteria. Exceptions include wall hangings and needle-felted pictures.
4. Hats are usually not felted as hard as bags. Scarves and wraps are often felted even softer, for drape. In any case, all felted items must be sturdy and show no obvious thin spots, except where the base fabric appears as a design element in Nuno felt or as a deliberate feature of the design.
5. Fibers for Nuno felt must be fully felted into the ground fabric (typically silk or gauze). Small, fine bubbling should be visible on the reverse. Large ripples indicate that the piece is not fully felted.
6. A felted scarf need not be completely rectangular with straight edges, but it should not be lop-sided unless that is a deliberate design element.

Roving and Hand-spun Yarn:

1. Fibers must be odor-free and free of debris (weeds, straw, dirt, bugs, etc.).
2. Yarn must not be spun so loosely that it breaks easily nor so tightly that it becomes easily tangled.
3. Skeins must be tied off neatly and twisted to prevent tangling.
4. Skeins must be tagged with fiber content, yardage/weight, and recommended care.

Hand-dyed Articles - Acid Dyes, Fiber-reactive Dyes, Silk Painting, Marbling:

1. There must be no major flaws in the fabric/paper blank underlying the dyeing/surface design.
2. “Fire spots” from undisclosed dye are not acceptable.
3. Flecks, spots, uneven colorings or discharges that appear accidental due to their color, location, and/or failure to cohere with the overall design are not acceptable.

A Note on Natural Dyes, Tannins, and Ochres:

It is important to understand that results from unrefined, natural sources will not be consistent, and that this is inherent in the art. Natural-dyed items should be identified as such on the hang tag (e.g., “Uneven dyeing is often inherent in the natural-dye process and should not be looked upon as a flaw.”)

Ceramics

1. Items intended for use in eating or drinking must contain no lead in either clay or glaze.
2. The hang-tag should indicate whether or not an item for kitchen use is microwavable.

3. Items with lead or hazardous metals in the clay or glaze should include the following notice: "Not for food use" or "For decorative use only."

Prints, Photographs, Fiber Wall Art, etc.

1. All items must be display-ready, with wire or hanging tabs attached.
2. Mats should fit to the edges of the frame and glass.
3. Glass should be free of finger-prints and other surface marks.
4. Fiber wall art will be subject to the standards appropriate to the medium.

Jewelry

1. Since we are a fiber arts organization, we prefer to have jewelry submissions that are congruent with classes taught at the Weaving and Fiber Arts Center: for example, pmc; chainmaille; kumihimo; felted, knitted, crocheted, woven, braided pins, buttons, earrings, etc. Bead-weaving and items that feature weaving techniques using metal wire (copper, brass, gold, silver) are also welcome.
2. Originality and fine craftsmanship in the application of given jewelry techniques should figure prominently in items submitted.
3. Also acceptable are well-set, natural and semi-precious stones, as well as beads that are specifically handmade by the artist (dichroic glass and paper or felted beads would fall into this category).
4. Stones, if used, must be well set/attached so as not to come loose.
5. Beaded items must be strung or woven on thread or wire that is strong enough to withstand normal wear (e.g., 8-10lb RedLine for fine beadwork).
6. Ends must be neatly and securely finished, and clasps/closures and chains must be suitably sturdy for the piece; crimps should cover ends, leaving no rough edges.
7. Metal surfaces should not be tarnished, except as part of the design.
8. Magnetic clasps, if used, must be clearly noted on the hang-tag, as these can interfere with the proper functioning of pace-makers.
9. To prevent tangling at check-in and screening, jewelry items must be packaged individually (e.g., in small baggies) or presented on display holders.

Basketry

Woven Baskets:

1. Weavers should be packed down tightly over uprights (unless deliberate open spaces are part of the design).
2. Sides of the basket are visually even; no side is noticeably taller or shorter than the rest (unless dictated by the design).
3. Weavers are of lighter weight or are thinner than the uprights so that no upright is "rolled" or over-powered and weakened.

4. When adding a new weaver, enough overlap is given to hide the connection and not weaken the basket.
5. Rims are adequately overlapped and properly secured with the lashing weaver.
6. Handles are lashed well and have little movement.
7. Baskets must not show "sag" due to poor weaving technique
8. In the case of reed baskets, the "bad" side of the material shows a heavy fiber running the length of the strip. This should be facing the inside of the basket.

Items for Babies and Young Children

1. Hems on blankets and clothing for infants are best sewn on a sewing machine or serger, or hand-stitched in very small stitches such that little fingers won't be caught in the fabric.
2. Buttons and snaps should be securely attached with doubled thread.
3. Information about the fiber content of children's clothing and toys should include instructions for care.