

Acceptance into the Alabama Designer Craftsmen as an exhibiting member is granted to those who have perfected their craft with a mastery of technique and originality of design (or true to a traditional design and thus noted). The work is seen as more than just the sum of its parts and reflects the craftsperson's vision.

Those interested in going before Standards will go through a jurying process during which the work is either accepted or not accepted. Those interested in applying to Standards must be a member of the Alabama Designer Craftsmen with current dues paid in full. There is no additional fee for applying to Standards.

Work will be judged on the following criteria:

(1) The manner in which the work is executed shows obvious mastery of the materials and is true to its function (for example, a pottery bowl has been trimmed properly and is not bottom heavy and a glass goblet sits level on its base).

(2) Originality of design. If traditional, the piece must adhere to the traditional format and be so noted (for example, your work must not merely be a copy of those you studied with or a copied design). Work done in a class or workshop will not be accepted.

(3) The work must have a continuity of style. It is recognizable as your work. It does not look like you are just trying this and that, with no consistency of design.

(4) The piece must function properly (for example, earrings must be light enough to wear and a pitcher pours without dripping).

Each of the five pieces submitted must meet and excel in each of the criteria or you will not pass standards.

The following functional and nonfunctional crafts will be considered:

Clay  
Fiber  
Glass  
Metal  
Leather  
Paper  
Wood  
Mixed Media

Prospective exhibiting members will:

(1) E-mail five examples of their work to the Standards Committee Chairperson; a resume of their craft training/experience; a statement explaining their work/vision and the process.

(2) All accepted in the first screening will bring those five pieces to Samford University for the second screening.

Everyone drops their pieces off at the same time. They are labeled by name, title (if any), and category by those applying.

Everyone's work will be picked up at the same time. The prospective exhibiting members are not required to be present.

Those wishing to go through Standards must have Step One of the process completed by March 1 for April and July 1 for August.

The Committee then votes accept or not accept on the work as a whole. If one of the five pieces does not meet the criteria, then the Standards Committee member votes the prospective exhibiting members as non accept.

Purchased items used in conjunction with the handcrafted item are acceptable as long as the focus remains on the handcrafted item. The purchased addition is no more than 1/4 of the completed work.

Some examples of acceptable purchased items would include the following:

- (1) Bamboo handles for tea pots
- (2) Earring wires, chains from which the handcrafted item is attached, jump rings.

Some examples of what is not accepted are as follows:

- (1) Bead stringing, unless you have made the beads yourself
- (2) Anything made from a commercial mold
- (3) China painting
- (4) Paintings
- (5) Photography
- (6) Anything made from a purchased kit
- (7) Work that is not original, unless it is a traditional design, which must be so noted.

Found objects may be used in combination with the handcrafted piece, not exceeding 1/4 of the completed piece. One exception might be the use of the found object as the material with which to create a sculpture. This category would also need to go through the jurying process. It is up to the discretion of the Committee Chairperson to allow this to be considered for jurying after researching the process proposed.

An expert in the field is always part of the first screening process, but does not have to be present at the second screening. If such an expert is not serving on the committee, the Chairperson will seek out an expert in the presented category.

It is the responsibility of the Standards Chairperson to make sure all members serving on Standards understand the jurying process.

The Chairperson will determine the appropriateness of the craft for prior to acceptance into the jurying process. The Chairperson will then forward this to the President & the Standards Committee. The Committee members will e-mail either their acceptance or non acceptance based on the four criteria (in the event of a tie, the Chairperson has the deciding vote). The Chairperson will notify those who applied of their status.

The President appoints the Standards Chairperson. The President has a place on Standards Committee if they so choose. The Chairperson picks their Committee with the President's approval. The Chairperson serves a two year term and the Committee is appointed yearly. There is no timeframe on how many years either may serve. The Chairperson picks their successor from those who have served on the Standards Committee with the outgoing President's approval.

The Standards Committee is made up of eight to twelve Alabama Designer Craftsmen who are exhibiting members in good standing. The Committee will meet in April and again in August at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama to judge prospective exhibitor's work that passed the first screening process.

Alabama Designer Craftsmen whose membership has not been paid by the deadline date at the end of the membership year December 31, so as to remain a current member, is understood to be indicating that they are not interested in supporting the AD/C and therefore their Standards status is no longer in effect. If their membership is renewed after that deadline date they will be required to reapply to Standards in all previously passed categories in order to reinstate showing/exhibition privileges in those categories.

Submitted by Vickey Wheeler to the Alabama Designer Craftsmen. March 9, 2010