



205 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301
603 224-1471/ Fax 603 225-8452
nhleague @nhcrafts.org www.nhcrafts.org

Casting

STANDARDS CRITERIA FOR METAL CASTING

League guidelines for casting require that the materials used be fundamentally transformed by the craftsman resulting in work which demonstrates technical fluency, integrity of intent and result, and spirited sense of personal vision.

Standards Criteria for Casting apply to two categories of League members.

The first category is comprised of craftsmen whose castings comprise their total body of work. These craftsmen must do their own casting.

The second category is comprised of craftsmen who wish to use casting techniques as an adjunct to their primary method of creating their body of work.

Both categories require that the original models and all the finishing work must be done by the craftsman.

During the jury session the applicant must provide the fabricated and/or carved models from which the molds are made, finished pieces they have cast themselves, and cast work by the casting service, for comparison. Emphasis will be placed on the fabricated work and work cast by the applicant. Limited editions are encouraged.

All newly juried members begin juried membership with a period of conditional acceptance. Conditional acceptance will become full acceptance after the successful review of three successive shipments to headquarters. For each shipment review craftsmen must submit their fabricated work and the casting of that work for review. After the first successful shipment review, that successful work may be designated to one or more of the League of NH Craftsmen retail galleries, with the manager's permission. After one successful review, the successful work is eligible for The Shop at the Fair, Living With Craft, or CraftWear at the Fair, or the NH Open Doors Tour.

Technical Guidelines:

1. Forms should reflect a strong, consistent and original stylistic development. Applicant should present a body of work that demonstrates range and technical ability.
2. Connections (both hot and cold) should be physically strong.
3. The work should be durable and well made so that it has a reasonable life span when used for its intended purpose.

4. The joining, fitting and finishing of any parts should be the result of conscious decision and control by the craftsman. Each piece should demonstrate that attention has been paid to all surfaces, including the back surface. There should be no pits or mold marks showing inside or out. The finish, whether a smooth finish or a designed texture must be deliberate; the evident intent of the maker.
5. Any fire scale problems must be resolved. Solder joints are clean.
6. Any purchased parts must be of high quality and be well integrated in the work. Findings should be of high quality, function properly, and be compatible with the materials in the piece.
7. The stone settings, if applicable, should be set straight with even prongs that are finished and smooth to the touch, with no prongs off the stone.
8. Bezels, either fabricated or designed into the casting must have even edges with no spaces between the stone and the bezel. There must be proper alignment to the design, even and straight to the center of the casting; or intentionally askew.

Commercial Production Techniques:

The League's focus is on work made by hand by individual craftspeople. Commercial production techniques used solely for high volume output may prove unacceptable for League standards, though exceptions may be made, especially if the following criteria are met:

1. The finished product is best made by this particular method, with a higher aesthetic and technical quality resulting than if made by hand.
2. The work has an extremely high level of originality and expressiveness in design.
3. The original models for any master molds are produced solely through the concept and hand of the juried craftsman.
4. All guidelines for hand fabricated work apply.
5. For the second category of craftsmen, cast parts must be identified and be a lesser portion of each piece.

Truth in Labeling:

Cast work must be differentiated from non-cast work in all exhibitions and marketing venues. This may be done via individual story cards or through other educational signage.

Juried craftspeople are encouraged to permanently mark their work with quality stamps (e.g. 14kt, SS, etc.) and with their personal hallmark. Craftspeople must comply with any specific legal requirements for labeling their craft. The League encourages craftspeople to provide supplemental

materials to educate the public on craft and process. Labeling must comply with League state juried standards.

Aesthetic Concerns:

The work must demonstrate more than technical proficiency, more than the reproduction of a recognizable style. It should express the personal aesthetic and vision of the maker, and demonstrate a coherent stylistic development, with every attention to detail, design, function and finish. A harmony of intent, process and result is the measure of successful work.

Components and Accessories

Components or accessories are parts that are not made in the studio of the juried LNHC craftsman, which are incorporated into craft objects. Such components and/or accessories are acceptable and appropriate only if: (1) they are the best solution, (2) they play only a supporting role, (3) they would not be reasonably interpreted, based upon appearance, as objects created by LNHC craftsmen, or (4) they are fundamentally transformed by the craftsman.

Health and Safety Guidelines

The craftsperson is responsible for assurance that craftwork meets all federal, state, and local health and safety requirements.

1.27.2010