



*League of N.H. Craftsmen*

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Baskets

## STANDARDS CRITERIA FOR BASKETS

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

A successful basket is made from materials appropriate for its primary function, whether expressive, decorative or utilitarian.

Baskets are used for storage and carrying need to be structurally strong and made from materials that will weave a firm and compact form. The weaving ends should be secured and finished in a way that makes them inconspicuous. Materials chosen for the basket should be appropriate for its size, function and design.

A decorative basket may be less structured if the obvious intention of its use is non-functional. If such a basket has an additional function all aspects of design and material should fit its purpose.

The jurors look for the maker's originality in design and structure. However, traditional styles such as Shaker, Nantucket and split ash have specific characteristics developed over time. If the intent of the basket maker is to reproduce these styles, the craftsmanship must be precise.

### Technical Guidelines:

1. Forms should reflect a strong, consistent and original stylistic development. Applicant should present a body of work (6-12 pieces) which demonstrates his or her abilities.
2. Any color or decoration should fit and enhance the form in a way that is integral to the function and expression of the piece.
3. Thickness of weavers and uprights should be in proportion and in harmony with the form and function of the piece.
4. Each basket should be finished inside and out.
5. Handles and rims should be strong, smooth to the touch, and firmly attached. Use of commercially purchased handles is strongly discouraged.
6. Commercially produced materials like split reed and cane are not prohibited, but should be used by the maker with the most creative intent. Other materials or objects used in making non-functional baskets should be consistent with, and enhance, the primary materials chosen for the baskets structure.

## Commercial Production Techniques:

The League's focus is on work made by hand by individual craftspeople. Commercial production methods used solely for high volume are not acceptable for League standards, although exceptions may be made.

## Truth In Labeling:

Work made by the individual state juried craftsman may be personally signed or stamped. Craftspeople are encouraged to permanently sign or stamp their work. Labeling must comply with League state and juried standards.

## Aesthetic Concerns:

The work must demonstrate more than technical proficiency, more than the reproduction of a recognize 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.

## **LNHC Standards Guidelines for Juried Work - Applicable to all media categories**

### Components and Accessories

Components or accessories are parts that are not made in the studio of the juried LNHC member, which are incorporated into craft objects. Such components and/or accessories are acceptable and appropriate only if: they are of high quality construction and materials; they do not visually dominate the finished object; and they would not be reasonably interpreted, based upon appearance, as objects created by juried LNHC members.

### Health and Safety Guidelines

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