



*League of N.H. Craftsmen*

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Mixed Media:  
Early American Decoration

## STANDARDS CRITERIA FOR EARLY AMERICAN DECORATION

The League's emphasis is on the hand crafting of work and not necessarily the painting and decorating on a surface where there is no handcrafting involved by the person submitting the work. The one exception to this guideline is in the traditional Early American Decorating where the intent is to reproduce the designs in their original concept, allowing for some personal expression.

The following categories are considered for jurying:

1. Country (brushstroke) painting
2. Stenciling on tin and wood
3. Freehand bronzing
4. Gold leafing
5. Pontypool (impasto) painting
6. Victorian painting
7. Reverse glass painting, stenciling and gold leaf
8. Theorem painting
9. Floor cloth stenciling

Criteria:

1. Whether used in a traditional or contemporary manner, the ornamentation should be appropriate to the piece and exhibit good craftsmanship in keeping with the basic requirements for each technique.
2. The background paint of the article and main units should have good, smooth coverage, free from dust and ridges.
3. Brushstrokes should have good rhythm, proper focal points and not be worked over.
4. Striping should be firm, even and follow the contour of the piece.
5. Velvet painting should be carefully blended with attractive choice of colors.
6. Final finish should be hand rubbed and free from dust and ridges.

Truth in Labeling:

Work made by the individual state juried craftsperson may be personally signed or stamped. Craftspersons are encouraged to permanently sign or stamp their work, and to provide supplemental materials to educate the public on craft and process.

## 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.

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

### Commercial Production Techniques

The League's focus is on work made by hand by individual craftspeople. Commercial production methods used solely for speed or high volume are not acceptable by LNHC Standards, although exceptions may be made. Craftspeople who utilize machine assisted production methods must maintain an extremely high level of originality and expressiveness of design. The juried craftsperson must create the imagery, color choices, and design.

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