

STANDARDS CRITERIA FOR CONTEMPORARY ARTIST DOLLS

League standards for artist dolls require that the materials be fundamentally transformed by the artist; resulting in finished work demonstrates technical fluency, integrity of intent and result and a spirited sense of personal vision.

An artist doll is an artistic expression of an animate form, conceived by the artist and constructed in a variety of media. The resulting work should meet the criteria of other fine craft pieces, a pleasurable combination of line form and color, or a visual social statement, an expression of the artist's intent.

The League recognizes that artist dolls are often multimedia in nature, and may come in a variety of materials, including, but not limited to clay, wood, synthetic clays, wax, composition, resin, cloth, paper, corn husks and other natural materials. Regardless of the material, the criteria above will apply.

Technical Guidelines:

1. Dolls should reflect a strong, consistent and original stylistic development. Applicant should present a body of work (6-12 pieces) that demonstrates range and ability.
2. Clothing and accessories should fit and enhance the form in a way that is integral to the function and expression of the piece.
3. Any purchased parts used must be necessary to the work, be of highly quality, and not dominate the work.
4. No commercial molds or commercial patterns may be used. The original must be made by the artist.
5. The doll must demonstrate overall quality craftsmanship, construction and materials. Dolls that are meant to be moveable or posable should function as intended.
6. Toys and children's dolls must meet Federal safety guidelines.

Limited Editions:

The League's focus is on work made by hand by individual craftspeople. Commercial production methods used solely for highly volume are not acceptable for League standards, although exceptions may be made. especially if the following criteria are met:

The work has an extremely high level of originality and expressiveness in design.

The original model for the master mold must be made by the state juried craftsman.

Items are numbered and limited in quantity.

Handcrafted accessories (i.e. baskets) created for individual artist dolls do not need to be separately juried. However, if they are to be produce separately from the doll they must meet the standards criteria for that category of craftwork, and be approved by the appropriate state media jury.

Truth in Labeling;

All artist dolls should be signed by the artist. Labeling must comply with League state and juried standards. Crafts people are encouraged to provided supplemental materials that educate the public on craft and process.

Aesthetics:

The work must demonstrate more than technical proficiency, more than the reproduction of a recognized style; it should express the personal aesthetics 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.