

STANDARDS CRITERIA FOR FELTED WORKS

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

Every aspect of the work should demonstrate intentional choice.

A successful felted piece is made from materials appropriate for its primary function, whether expressive, decorative or utilitarian. The League accepts both wet-felted and needle-felted work, including wearables, decorative accessories, and functional and non-functional objects.

General Requirements:

The jurors will want to see a cohesive body of work that demonstrates the full range of your skills and your unique personal vision, that is, as the League describes it, the *Spirit of the Maker*. Please plan to bring your best work that is current and typical of the type and quality of work that you wish to exhibit through the League. The jurors generally ask that you bring 6 to 12 pieces.

1. The finished product must be made from high quality materials suitable for the intended purpose. Enhancements to the finished piece (hanging supports, garment findings, purchased components and embellishments) should be well made and not dominate the work.
2. Mastery of felting techniques is required whether work is wet felted or needle felted. This includes:
 - a. Even layering reflecting intent of the piece. (Overly thin places, holes or folds should be part of the design and not accidental.)
 - b. Felt should be sufficiently hardened for the intended use. Clothing should be felted hard enough to resist abrasion and pilling, decorative pieces should be hard enough to hold up over time. Felted fiber should not be loose or easily pulled apart.
 - c. The type of fiber used should be appropriate to the function of the piece. The felt maker should be aware of the characteristics of the fibers used and how the characteristics affect the felting and use of the piece.
 - d. If used in the felt, the choice of fabric, thread and other materials must be an appropriate match to the weight and use of the piece and the intent of the craftsman. When felting on silk or other fabrics the fiber should become integrated into the felt sufficiently so that it cannot be pulled loose. When inlaying other materials such as decorative yarns, fabric pieces and silk, the inlaid pieces should be integrated into the felt sufficiently so that they cannot be pulled loose.
 - e. Surface design techniques on felt and the fibers and materials used in felting should show mastery of technique. This includes painting, stenciling, shibori,

appliqué, stamping, batik, etc. Materials and fabrics used should complement the process being applied.

- f. All dyes or textile paints used in felting must be properly heat or steam set and washed.
 - g. All seams and edges should be finished intentionally and purposefully. Seams may be lapped and felted, stitched, or another intentional and purposeful method. Seamless resist felted pieces should not have ridges unless integral to the design.
 - h. With garments, consideration must be given to thickness and drape of the felt.
 - i. Consideration should be given to the precision of the corners of machine or hand stitched pieces when the intent is to be accurate.
3. All pieces must be suitably prepped before use. All washing instructions should be thoroughly tested. As appropriate, finished objects should be pressed, dry-cleaned or steamed.
 4. The work should show originality and personal expression, as well as mastery of technique.
 5. Backing materials for finished objects should complement the piece and not be of a lesser quality, functionally or aesthetically.
 6. Care labels must be clear and detailed, listing fabrics, techniques used, and care instructions.