

# **Ottawa Valley Weavers' and Spinners' Guild Standards**

All persons submitting work to be sold or shown through the OVWSG must be members in good standing of this guild.

The jury is a team of three volunteers from the Guild membership who have agreed to evaluate items being submitted for sale. They will use these standards as their guide. The jurors are responsible for highlighting any problems with sale items including labelling and finishing. If the item can be brought up to standard before the show date, every effort should be made to allow the member to fix the fault and resubmit the item before the deadline. Sale participants are expected to assist in the jury process by complying with the deadline and the jury requests. The jury is free to consult with other members of the guild. Examples of finished, labelled work as it will appear at the sale must be submitted by the stated deadline. All items offered for sale must comply with government regulations (e.g. stuffing, labelling, flammability standards, etc.). 1

Each new member in good standing will receive a set of standards and guidelines with their membership. The standards are posted on our website. Notification of updates will be sent to our members, who will be expected to inform themselves by reviewing them from the site.

## ***Handwoven Articles***

No threading or treadling errors, no skips, no knots in the warp or weft, unless part of the technique used or part of the design.

Appropriate weave structure for intended use – table linens must be launderable; the drape of the cloth must suit the purpose of the item; sets of items must truly be sets.

All items must be finished appropriately, according to their specific style and function.

All items must have tags that comply with government regulations<sup>1</sup>. The tags must have the name of the maker, percent of fibre content, size if appropriate, care instructions and comply with government regulations.

All items must be finished, pressed, blocked and cleaned. Hanging devices must be installed on tapestries and wall pieces.

## ***Handspun yarn and hand dyed yarn***

Natural and synthetic fibres that are processed and spun by hand will be called handspun. Yarns that are spun by hand and then plied with commercial yarn and threads must have at least one ply that is handspun and must be clearly labelled as to content. These yarns are called handmade.

Yarns must be neatly skeined and tied.

Yarns must be clean with the twist set.

The thickness and twist must be appropriate for the yarn and the intended use.

Unsound yarns or obvious errors such as over-twist, under-twist, separated splices and slubs in an otherwise smooth yarn, are not acceptable.

Dyeing is a craft in and of itself. To this end, premium quality commercially produced natural fibres are permitted when the Guild member enhances the final product by dyeing the original material. All dyes must be well set, light and wash fast. Differentiate between natural dyeing and synthetic dyes on any dyed item. State which dyes and mordents are used (e.g. black walnut with tin).

All items must have tags that comply with government regulations<sup>1</sup>. The tags must have the name of the maker, description of the item, percent of fibre content, yardage and weight. Special qualities of the yarn should be noted (e.g. rainbow dyed, Samoyed hair). Care instructions must be on the tag and conform to government standards.

## ***Felting***

Various hand felting techniques are allowed including, but not limited to needle felting, Nuno felting, wet felting and fulled items.

Items must be suited to purpose (e.g. slippers and bags should be made out of durable wool. Items worn against the skin must not be coarse or irritating).

All items with seams must be neatly and carefully sewn by hand or machine in an unobtrusive manner. Top stitching is acceptable as a design element.

Items must be properly felted and/or fulled.

Items made from knit or crochet and then fulled must be made with handspun yarn.

Commercial notions are acceptable. The majority of the item must be felted; leather trim, ultra-suede binding, or commercial fabric as accents such as patch pockets, and knitted cuffs and collars using commercial yarns are fine. A garment of commercial fabric with felted yoke and cuffs is not acceptable at the guild sales.

All items must have tags that comply with government regulations<sup>1</sup>. The tags must have the name of the maker, description of the item, including material and care instructions.

Wall hangings must be ready to hang or frame. Proper hanging or framing instructions should be included. Non-felted items can be included as long as felt is the main component.

## ***Grandfathering***

Vendors who have been juried for one item can sell similar items once they have passed the jury but if they add a new medium, the new articles must be juried.

## ***Other***

Knit and/or crochet items must be made from hand spun.

Kits must be complete with original instructions for making the item. All yarn for knitting or crocheting projects must be handspun. Spinning kits with a vendor made spindle and vendor written instructions can have commercial roving since the instructions and spindle are the primary component of the kit.

## ***Tools and special materials for weavers, spinners and felters***

The Guild has many artisans and suppliers that offer their art and wares to the spinners weavers and felters of the guild and this community. The Ex and Sale is a great opportunity to buy and sell these often rare and specialized materials, tools and art. We have agreed to let vendors that serve the needs of our guild and the community join us at the Ex and Sale. These vendors are asked to meet with the jury to discuss their products in order to avoid competition with the guild members.

Fleeces, batts, roving and non-fibre material will be allowed, but must be submitted to the jury for approval.

Fleece does not have to be washed, but must be free from pests and presented in a clear plastic bag for the duration of the show.

Batts must be neatly presented, labeled as to content, and be colour-fast.

Tools and special materials optimally should be made by the vendor. Commercial yarns (e.g. ones such as colcolastic, combined natural fiber and metal plies, very fine siks and specialized collapsing yarns) that are not readily available from hand spinners, are allowed.

It is understood that not all products will fit this hand-made category and that some commercial ventures will be welcomed as niche marketers. All items must be ready for sale, as submitted for approval by the jury. The jury decisions are final.

## ***Booths***

Booths need to welcome visitors in a professional manner.

Accessibility and safety are imperative, avoid tripping hazards. Keep aisles clear.

Nothing in your booth should interfere with other vendors, or the flow of traffic in the show.

Be aware of what the back of your display might look like if you are not against the wall. Do not let it detract from the professional appearance of the show.

Booths that are not against the wall must not exceed six feet in height.

Each booth is assigned a specific space; you cannot spread into the traffic area. You will be asked to contain your items if this happens.

Please use only LED lighting or other low wattage lighting to prevent electrical overload.

1. Link to Government regulations: <http://www.competitionbureau.gc.ca/eic/site/cb-bc.nsf/eng/01249.html>