



SAANICH PENINSULA ARTS & CRAFTS SOCIETY

EXHIBITION STANDARDS

Additional Information for Jewelers

JANUARY 2020

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Standards Specific to Jewelry

To be considered in addition to existing standards

INTRODUCTION

It has come to the attention of the SPAC Spring Show committee that the “Exhibition Standards” document does not sufficiently address issues specific to our jewelers and their art. Therefore the following document was created—after consultation with the jeweler members—to provide additional guidelines for them. We hope you find it helpful.

LABELLING

What is written in our general Standards book (Blue Book):

Each item must be labelled with the member's name (not initials), the title where applicable, the entry number (matching the number used on the Entry Form) and the price.

Use an adhesive label on the bottom of items or, in the case of fabrics, put this information on a firmly attached tag.

A problem with the labelling that is specific to jewelry is that sometimes a potential customer may try on a piece and then not put it exactly back where the formal label is displayed. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary that all of the information be attached to the piece of jewelry itself - not on the box because that does not get moved.

Using a string tag with the member's full name, entry number, and price is the most important information. If there is space to include the title and a description of the medium or materials used, that is good. For cuff bracelets and some other items, this may be difficult, and an adhesive label could be used.

The Standards Table will be ensuring that the labels are attached to the piece of jewelry.

DISPLAY

There is nothing specifically written in our general Standards book concerning display of jewelry. Yet, there is quite a bit written for standards on framing standards for fine art work. Therefore, there needs to be a section for standards of jewelry display.

Our recommendation is that each member provides either a display stand or box or some sort of display feature for each item of jewelry. This may be in the form of a bust, a bracelet stand, or an earring stand. An appropriate display will enhance the presentation of the artist's

individual piece of work. It is desirable, if possible, that the jewelry item can be easily removed from the display so that a potential customer can try it on or at least hold it up to see how it would look on them if desired.

ENTERING UNIQUE PIECES INTO THE GALLERY

Each artist is allowed to enter multiple pieces of 3D Art into the main Gallery. It has been commented that the artists, including jewelers, are not just entering their very best, but also their stock items, resulting in more of a “craft show” look. It was suggested that the “general stock” instead be submitted to the Gift Shop. Perhaps this is something to be thinking about. I think it is important to consider the implications of “general stock” compared to “very best”.

What is written in our general Standards book concerning crafts specific to entering unique pieces of jewelry:

Each item or set of items must be unique and original. Good design should play an integral part of the finished article.

The craftsperson must have complete control over the making of each individual piece. This means having hands-on participation in each stage of the production process.

A piece must be skillfully finished and should demonstrate quality workmanship. It should incorporate techniques appropriate to design, materials and function.

Instructions for usage, cleaning and care should be included, where appropriate. Objects made from commercial kits, patterns, moulds or “how-to” books will not be accepted for exhibit. Articles that require simply following directions or no special skill or assembly are also not acceptable.

The situation of creating a unique or an original piece is a difficult one for jewelers (and for many artisans such as weavers, potters, woodworkers, etc.) since each item we make is unique and original because we have made it individually with our hands and our tools. However, the point made by the jurors is well taken and we need to consider which items we place in the Gallery compared to those items we place in the Gift Shop. SPAC is a “Fine Art” show – hence it is also a “Fine Craft” show and we want to keep that level of artistic creation that distinguishes SPAC. All of us create some “general stock” items that we know are well received by our customers. The recommendation is that those items be placed in the Gift Shop next year and that next year, your “very best” items should be in the Gallery. It must also be recognized that price is a consideration for jewelry artists because of the limit of \$200 in the Gift Shop. Perhaps more discussion may be needed by jewelers to address this recommendation.

CRAFTS: GENERAL STANDARDS GUIDELINES

Included in the crafts are the following categories: **clay, glass, fibre and fibre arts, jewelry and metal, wood** and **miscellaneous** (i.e., calligraphy). Innovative exploration of materials, creative and educated use of traditional methods, technical competence and integrity are encouraged.

The following standards serve as guidelines and will be used to determine acceptability of work for show and/or sale. (Please note that each category and medium also has its own specific requirements.)

JEWELRY AND METAL

Included here is jewelry or other pieces where the majority of the article is made by or from **metal work** (gold, silver, copper, brass, mixed metals), **lapidary work, polymer clay, handmade beads, or enameling on metal**.

Originality of design and quality workmanship is of utmost importance. No commercially manufactured base forms, settings, ornamentation, kits, etc., are acceptable. Factory-made findings such as earring backs, pin stems, catches, clasps, chains for pendants, etc. may be used, providing they are of good quality and don't dominate or interfere with the design. Gemstones used to add colour or brilliance to the design may be purchased or fabricated by the artist. Materials used should be properly labelled.

METALS

Metals must be finely finished so that all fire-scale (copper oxide), excess solder, scratches, file and tool marks, etc. have been removed. Edges should be smooth and free from sharp points. Polish should be consistent or used with texture. Under Canadian law, karat or sterling quality marks (if used) must be accompanied by a registered trademark.

LAPIDARY

A variety of materials (e.g. precious or semi-precious stones, alabaster, shell, ivory, bone, amber, coral, polymer clay, plastics and acrylics, etc.) may be used to enhance jewelry or to create other articles. The shaping and fine finishes of the stone are important features and should enhance both the overall design and optical qualities (play of light) of the stone. Hardness of stones should be considered in relation to usage. Stone settings should be secure or collars, if used, should be close fitting.

ENAMELING ON METAL

Surfaces can be transparent, translucent or opaque. **Transparent enamels** should be clear and brilliant. If foil is used beneath transparent enamel, it should enhance the colour and lie flat, not crawl up the edges of the wire. **Translucent enamels** should have a milky, opalescent appearance. **Opaque enamels** should not be discoloured due to contamination or improper cleaning of metal.

Enamels should be properly fused to the base material with appropriate thickness and no cracks, bubbles, pits or unnatural warpage. Joins should be even and neat. Wires should be properly adhered without gaps, with ends neatly filed and tool marks removed. Soft soldering may be used where practical. Suitable cements are permitted with transparent enamels or where soldering is not practical. Stoning, if used in final finishes, should be level and the full width of the wires. Wires should not sink into the enamel. Pieces should be counter enameled and should be neither over- or under-fired.

HANDMADE BEADS

Beads may be created from any material included in the other craft categories (e.g. clay, glass, wood, lapidary, metal, polymer clay, paper, etc.). Please indicate if beads are handmade. Guidelines for all crafts and jewelry apply