

Judges' Guidance – Fiber Arts

For all entries: If you are not familiar with this type of art/science, can the entrant explain clearly the information you seek, based on their knowledge and research, in a verbal format?

Documentation:

- Did the documentation include a time period for the entry, including weaving techniques and fiber?
- Did it list materials, techniques, and tools and dates of when types of materials, techniques, and tools were available?
- Did it explain what the particular entry was and where and when it would have been used, built, or produced?
- Were drawings, pictures, or diagrams included?
- Did the entrant cite examples, list sources, and include a bibliography?
- Were appropriate examples of the period pieces included, if applicable?
- Did the entrant explain changes &/or compromises made in the creation of the item/s?
- Was the documentation organized, legible, and well-structured?

Complexity:

- What was the level of complexity of steps in creating this item?
- Did the entrant develop it from a period source, use a modern translation, or create an original work?
- Were tools and materials purchased or handmade?
- Was there a level of difficulty of execution of the techniques used in conjunction with the materials and tools chosen?
- Was it a complicated technique with an involved pattern/design?

Creativity:

- Did the entrant make an exact copy of a period piece?
- Did the entrant base an original work on a period piece?
- How much did the entrant's piece differ from the original?

Authenticity:

- To what degree did the entrant use pre-1600 tools, materials, and processes?
- Were materials and techniques used appropriate to the stated time period and geographic/cultural origin of the entry?
- If modern substitutes were used, did the entrant explain why?
- Did it give the appearance and impression of period work?

Aesthetic qualities:

- Was the entry finished properly?
- Was the entry attractively presented?

- Did it look and feel the way it should?
- Was artistry shown in the choice of materials used?
- Was the overall effect pleasing or useful?
- Was the overall appearance, design, color, and material combination suitable for a period piece?
- Was the design, if any, appropriate?
- If the entry was applied to another article, were any ends neatly finished and is it neatly applied?

Workmanship:

- Did the materials and techniques used produce a recognizable product?
- Were the techniques used appropriate to the period of the item?
- Was it consistent with known examples?
- Was the work even/consistent?
- Were the edges even?
- Was the design clear, consistent, and appropriate to the period?
- If the article was woven:
 - Was the article evenly/consistently woven?
 - Were the selvages even?
 - Was the tension consistent on warp and weft?
 - Were the finishing techniques consistent with the fiber used in the woven piece?
 - Was the design clear and consistent?
 - Were the repeats of the design even and similar?
 - Were the characteristics consistent with this style of weaving?
- If the article is needlework:
 - What is the quality of the finishing details, handwork, construction, and seams?
 - Were thread started and stopped in an appropriate method to the style of stitches used?
 - Were the stitches secure and formed correctly?
 - Was the correct weight of thread and needle size used in relation to the ground fabric?
 - Was it clean?
- If the article is lace:
 - Did the lace appear smooth and even?
 - Was the back of the work as neat as the front?
 - Was the stitching consistent?
 - Was the work clean?
 - Were threads started and stopped with a suitable method?
 - Was the tension of the thread even?
 - Did the lace hold its shape?
 - Were there obvious mistakes?