

Judges' Guidance – Leatherworking

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 list of the materials, techniques, and tools used and dates of when types of materials, techniques, and tools were available?
- Did it explain what the particular entry is and where and when it would have been used during period?
- Where was the pattern obtained?
- Were drawings, pictures, and diagrams included?
- Did the entrant cite examples, list sources, include a bibliography?
- Were appropriate examples included?
- Did the entrant explain changes &/or compromises made in the creation of the item/s?
- Was the documentation organized, legible, and well-structured?

Complexity:

- 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?
- What variety of materials, tools, and techniques were required?
- What skill level was needed in working with the materials, tools, and techniques to complete the entry?
- What was the number, form, and detail of pieces required to complete the entry?
- How difficult to execute were the proposed/required design elements, shaping, and any additional decorative elements (e.g., tooling, embroidery, carving, metalwork, etc.)?

Creativity:

- Did the entrant make an exact copy of a period piece?
- Did the entrant base an original work on a period piece using period methods and material or is this a modern translation?
- How much did the entrant's piece differ from the original?
- Was the entry presented in a creative manner?
- Did the entrant add personalization &/or embellishment resulting in a unique entry, if appropriate?
- Where substitutions for period materials, tools, and techniques were used, were results consistent with that expected within the stated time period and region?

Authenticity:

- Did the entrant use pre-1600 style tools and methods and appropriate pre-1600 materials?
- Did the entrant develop it from a period source, use a modern translation, or create an original work based on period methods and materials?

- To what degree did the entrant go to use period tools, materials, and processes to make the entry?
- If modern substitutes and/or methods were used, did the entrant explain why?
- Was the entrant knowledgeable about the methods and tools used in period (even if they chose not to use them)?
- Did it give the appearance and impression of period work appropriate to the stated time period and geographic/cultural setting?

Aesthetic qualities:

- Was the product finished properly?
- Was it 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 piece neat and clean?
- Did the entry appear to be even and consistent in terms of shape and finish?
- If applicable, how evenly executed were any design elements and/or applied decoration?
- How well did the entrant apparently design for perceived fit, if appropriate?
- Were the use and consistency of color well-conceived and accomplished?
- Did the design fill the space appropriately?
- Overall, did the entrant's efforts produce an outstanding achievement from the audience's perspective?

Workmanship:

- Did the materials and techniques used produce a recognizable product?
- Were the techniques and materials used appropriate to the period of the item?
- What was the quality of the finishing details, handwork, construction, and seams, if applicable?
- Was the entry functional?
- What was the skill of pattern draft and neatness of work?
- Were the edges finished?
- Were attached accessories appropriate to the piece?
- Was the shaping of the entry even and consistent?
- If the entry consisted of a pair of items, how well matched overall were the two items?
- If utilitarian, were the closures functional?
- Was use of color and/or other decorative elements even and consistent throughout?
- Were pattern elements evenly and well joined/attached?
- Were edges appropriately finished?
- Was the entry constructed to withstand its intended use?