

Judges' Guidance – Visual Arts – Painted and Inked

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:

Does the documentation include a list of the materials, tools, techniques, styles and design elements used, as well as dates of when and where they were available? Does it explain what the particular entry is and when and where it would have been used/created during period and its purpose if any? Does it include information on who would have used or created the item in period? Have drawings and colored pictures of sources been included? Have appropriate examples of recipes, methods, design elements, and styles, symbolism etcetera been included? To what degree did the entrant explain the selection of design elements, materials, and styles appropriate to the project? Did the entrant cite examples, list sources, and is a bibliography included? Does the entrant explain why changes &/or compromises were made in the item/s creation? Is the documentation organized, legible and well structured? If you as a judge are unclear on any of the documentation or if you have questions regarding things that are not covered by the documentation, can the entrant explain clearly the information you seek based on their knowledge and research in a verbal format?

Complexity:

Were tools and materials purchased or handmade? Is there difficulty of execution of the techniques used in conjunction with the materials and tools chosen? What was the variety used and difficulty attempted with respect to media, materials, techniques, design elements, and compositions? How complex was the scope (i.e., size of work with respect to amount of detail) of the entry? Did the entrant(s) undertake extended techniques (e.g., mixing paints &/or inks using pre-1600 century pigments/techniques, use of gesso, use of quills for calligraphy, etc.)? If calligraphy is being judged, what form(s) of lettering and calligraphic embellishment were undertaken? How complex was the scope of work for the entry? For cartography, were mapmakers' tools used? What was the difficulty/complexity of the projection used and added elements (e.g., compass, rhumb lines, scale, legend, etc.)?

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? Is the entry presented in a creative manner? For calligraphy, has the entrant used a single alphabet source, or has the entrant developed a personalized, well-developed pre-1600 century style of lettering (including use of such elements as ligatures & flourishes)? For illumination, has the entrant copied existing illuminations & decorative elements, or has the entrant produced original layout, illuminations, and design elements based upon pre-1600 concepts? For cartography, to what degree has the entrant personalized the use of cartographic design elements, calligraphy, and illumination in a pre-1600 cartographic style? Has the entrant copied an original map or chart, or has the entrant made a map or chart of a region or area not previously seen (perhaps of use within the Current Middle Ages)? For all works, how well has the entrant adapted use of modern materials, tools, and techniques towards the production of a pre-1600 effect? Overall, is this an "original" work that would have been acceptable within a pre-1600 context?

Authenticity:

Did the entrant develop it from a period source, use a modern translation, or is this an original work? Has the entrant used pre-1600 style tools & methods, as well as appropriate pre-1600 materials? To what degree were period technique, methods and materials used? If modern substitutes and/or methods were used, did the entrant explain why? Is 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 frame and geographic/cultural setting?

For C&I, did the entrant use alphabet(s), illumination styles, layout & design elements, illumination style(s), and symbolism appropriate to the entrant's stated time frame &/or culture for the project? Are the elements of the illumination appropriate to the subject matter of the text? Is the illumination style appropriate to the calligraphic style?

For cartography, did the entrant use cartographic design elements, alphabet(s), illumination styles, and layout appropriate to the entrant's stated time frame &/or culture for the project?

Aesthetic qualities:

Is the work finished properly? Is it attractively presented? Is the layout consistent and even and appropriate for the type of work? Were there obvious errors/corrections? Was any incorporated symbolism interpretable by a knowledgeable viewer? Does it look the way it should? Has artistry been shown in the choice of materials used? Is the overall effect pleasing or useful? Is the overall appearance, design, color, and material combination suitable for a period piece? Is the piece neat and clean? Does the design fill the space appropriately? Is it pleasing?

For C&I, did the use of text, calligraphy &/or illumination, stylistic, and design elements result in a beautiful piece?

Workmanship:

Have the materials and techniques used produced a recognizable product/or work of art? Are the techniques and materials used appropriate to the period of the item? How well did the entrant manage to control the media? Was any use of color and shading, symbolism, and design elements (pre-1600) appropriate and well executed? Was any calligraphy attempted? Was the spacing of letters and lines appropriate for the style? Was use of calligraphy, design motifs, and projection &/or added elements consistent throughout? For all types of works, is it consistent with known examples? Was the execution of perspective and proportion with respect to the selected style well done?