



Media Specific Guidelines for Clay

The purpose of the guideline is to ensure the continued acceptance/inclusion of well crafted ceramic pieces into the Market Registry, reflecting NSDCC's ongoing commitment to the development of fine craft in Nova Scotia

1. DESIGN

A successful object must be the result of careful designing, with obvious thoughtfulness used in determining the proportions, structural integrity, materials intended use, finishes, colours and decoration.

Thoughtful designing should exhibit:

- Appropriate proportions within the forms
- Appropriate choice of materials for intended use
- Suitable choice of process for fabricating the piece showing a high level of skill
- Unique visual appearance reflecting maker

2. PRODUCTION QUALITY AND TECHNIQUE

Whether produced in quantity or as an individual piece, the object must reflect excellent skill and production quality, being visibly well conceived and expertly executed.

Must reflect excellent craftsmanship, either as a "one-of-a-kind" or a production work should show a unique/personal identity of design.

Functional work must function well, and will be used in jurying.

Fabrication should exhibit high levels of skill in the following:

Construction Techniques:

- Thrown pieces should be evenly thrown and trimmed
- Seams and joints should be clean
- Appendages, such as handles, spouts, knobs, should be cleanly attached: comfortable and safe to use
- Rims and edges should be smooth and soft to the touch
- Warping, "S" cracks or other obvious defects are unacceptable
- Lids should fit well
- For pouring vessels, the vessel should pour well

Finishing:

- Each piece should be well finished on all sides
- Bottoms of each piece must be smooth and soft to the touch
- Glazing must be consistent with the intended use
- Handles must be comfortable, easy to use, and visually consistent with piece

3. SOURCE OF INSPIRATION

The design of an object must be original, or an adaptation of a traditional design which demonstrates the unique skills of the maker and reflects an individual identity of design. The object must be designed and fabricated by the applying maker, or by employees under the direct supervision of that person.

Since, in a reproduction, there is no design input, the onus of judgment is upon technical skill alone. Copying currently produced work is not acceptable.

Whether an original design, or an adaptation of a traditional design, the work should clearly reflect the personalized influence of the individual maker.

While giving a sense of the historical context from which a traditional adaptation has come, the pieces should clearly reflect a personal interpretation of this.

4. MATERIAL USED

The object must be constructed of materials which are of high quality and are appropriate to the structural integrity, utility and visual appearance of the object.

Materials should be appropriate to the intent of the pieces, both in purpose and visual appearance.

Work must demonstrate a level of technical competence and understanding of the materials used.

Clays must be fired to the temperature appropriate to the intended use of the piece, and with the appropriate glaze fit.

5. COMMERCIALLY FABRICATED CONTENT

Commercially fabricated elements in objects, including packaging, must be subordinate to the overall design of the object. Objects packaged and sold as a prepackaged unit are defined as gift packages and must be submitted for assessment in the ready-for-sale state.

Commercially fabricated elements (jewellery finding, handles, packaging, appendages, etc.) must be of fine quality, and if appropriate, fulfill the requirements of other media.

Wired lamps must be made with CSA approved materials.

6. SPECIFIC EXCLUSIONS

New forms and innovations will be considered by the Standards Committee. Unfinished items or kits for consumer assembly are not considered acceptable for NSDCC Markets.

Use of molds is permitted only when designed and fabricated by the applying craftsman, or by those under their direct supervision.

Transfers (decals) may be used if designed and fabricated by the applying craftsman, or by those under their direct supervision, with the following provisions:

- Transfers should relate to the complete piece in both function and design (i.e., not merely a “stuck-on decoration”)
- Transfers should be properly applied (i.e., no breaks, folds, bubbles, pinholes or lifting of transfer)
- Transfer material (glaze, stain, ink, etc.), must be compatible with the glaze and clay of the piece and fired to assure proper fusion to the piece.

7. IDENTIFICATION/LABELLING

All articles must be labeled with the maker’s name, address and the pertinent instructions to the consumer concerning care and maintenance, as well as any information to the consumer required by law.

An appropriate business card or tag should be included with each piece, including any special instructions concerning care or use of the piece.