



Media Specific Guidelines for Metal (Blacksmithing)

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

If traditional joining techniques such a mortise and tenon, collaring, riveting, etc. are used, they should adhere to established shop practice. However, this is not to discourage design innovation through modern interpretation of joining. Such explorations must still show control of the material and consideration of the structural integrity.

Designs for outside use must take into consideration the corrosive climate of the Maritimes and the effect of accumulated moisture.

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.

CONSTRUCTION

- LI types of welding are acceptable, however they must be uniform and of high standard of execution
- Electric welds should have a clean, uniform bead and add to, rather than detract from, the design
- Welds should be free of voids, pits and slag, with no undercutting or excessive build up
- Forge welds should be sound and the metal should not appear burned
- Individual elements, where joined, should come together smoothly and uniformly to produce the finished weld
- Finish must be well executed. Outside pieces should be galvanized to protect from corrosion

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

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.

Surface evidence of forging must be the result of honest manipulation of the raw materials and not a surface texture applied to manufactured items.

5. COMMERCIALY 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.

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.

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.