

STANDARDS OF QUALITY

Metalwork and Jewellery

This section covers the full range of metalwork, including forging, raising, forming, spinning, chasing, repousse, casting and fabricating.

The following principles apply to all metal craft, including sculpture, metal jewellery and mixed media where metals form part of the design.

Materials

1. All materials used in the creation of metal craftwork must be of high quality. The quality of subsidiary items (bolts, findings, clasps, chains, etc.) must be suitable for the material, finish and workmanship of the article.
2. Lead and cadmium bearing alloys are not acceptable for products to be used with food or in contact with the skin.
3. Attachment of metal to metal must be by bolting, rivetting, welding, brazing or soldering or by mechanical attachment inherent to the design.
4. Solder for items that may come into contact with food or the body must not contain lead.
5. Epoxy or other resins may be used for attaching findings such as pin backs to jewellery only where soldering is impossible (e.g. where a brooch back is enamelled or is of some other non-metal). Artists working in Niobium or Titanium are encouraged to incorporate pins into the design or to attach by rivetting. Where this is not possible, epoxy resins are acceptable.
6. Commercially manufactured settings and devices for mounting stones are not acceptable.
7. Commercially manufactured findings, chains, fastenings, etc. must be subordinate to the design and appearance of the work to which they are attached.
8. Carat and sterling marks must be applied to precious metals in accordance with appropriate national regulations.

Technique

1. Work must be free of tool marks except where such marks are intended as design elements.

2. Sharp edges and burrs must be removed, except when part of the intended design.
3. Flashing must be removed from castings.
4. Parting lines must be removed from castings where they detract from the appearance of the work.
5. Firescale must be removed.
6. Excess solder must be removed, including excess solder on pin backs and findings.
7. Where epoxy or other resins are permitted, excess resin must be removed.
8. All seams must be even, completely filled, and without excess filler.
9. Surface details must be clear.
10. Stones must be set securely.
11. Hollowware, whether spun or cast, or produced by fabricating, forming, or raising, must be well-balanced and symmetrical where symmetry is a requirement of the function or design.
12. Cast works in metal are acceptable if the master, the mold and the casting are the work of the craftsperson. The use of commercial molds is permitted only if the mold is so neutral as to have no influence on the aesthetic of the finished piece. Surface decoration must:
 1. Show a high level of understanding and application of design principles
 2. Be original, and show the distinct, personal style of the maker
 3. Show that consideration has been given to the integration of the base form into the finished product
 4. Be consistent with other products that form part of the craftsperson's line.
13. Cast items produced from photo-etched or other photo-mechanical patterns are not acceptable except where such items are used as decorative items on larger pieces, and where such cast items are subordinate to the handmade contribution of the craftsperson.

Jewellery made from materials other than metal

Jewellery made from clay, wood, polymer, glass, fibre, bone, stone, beads or other materials must demonstrate a distinct and original design or a skilful rendering of a traditional design. Techniques must be true craft techniques involving the transformation of raw materials into a finished product. Simple assemblage of pre-manufactured objects will not be accepted. Care must be taken to ensure that pre-manufactured components do not dominate the aesthetic of the work, or the technical contribution of the craftsperson. Craftspeople making jewellery from materials other than metal should refer to appropriate criteria and meet the construction standard for those materials.