

STANDARDS OF QUALITY

WORK USING PRESERVED PLANT MATERIALS

In areas such as this, where technical requirements are less demanding, a high expectation exists for a demonstration of personal design skills. Finished pieces must show that the maker has a thorough understanding of design theory and application, as well as an affinity for the special characteristics of the materials chosen.

Materials

1. All plant materials must be grown and/or collected by the maker.
2. The use of artificial stamens, leaves and plant parts is not permitted.
3. Plant materials should be collected when in prime condition unless imperfections are intended to form part of the design.
4. Bases, containers or frames should complement rather than compete with the arrangement of plant material. They must either:
 - a) Be handcrafted and meet the Craft Council Standards of Quality on their own.
 - or b) be entirely covered or hidden by plant material
 - or c) be so neutral as to have no influence on the aesthetic of the finished piece.
5. Purchased accessories, such as ribbons, may be used only if they play a minor role in the finished piece.
6. Care should be taken in the gathering of wild plants: the collection of some plants is either forbidden or strongly discouraged (i.e. wild orchids, pitcher plants).

Technique

7. All plant materials must be dried by the maker.
8. Materials may be pressed, air-dried, freeze-dried or preserved using glycerine or desiccants. Materials must be properly preserved in order that neither disintegration nor mould occurs.
9. Materials must be firmly secured in order that the finished piece is sufficiently durable to withstand expected handling. Securing materials such as glue and wires must not be readily visible.

10. The unexposed side of the work must be neatly finished.

Presentation

11. Each piece must carry a label or sticker identifying the materials used, including any scents, perfumes or oils.

12. In the case of pot pourri products, and any others that do not require a fixed arrangement, labelling and packaging will inevitably play a major role in the identification of the personal contribution of the craftsperson. Packaging must be secure and professionally presented to relay a distinct product style. Submissions of pot pourri only will not be accepted. Pot pourri will only be considered when part of a full product line.

*Special Note regarding fresh plant materials

An arrangement of fresh plant material (i.e. cut flowers) with a short expected life span will not normally meet the Craft Council Standards of Quality. Exceptions may be made in the case of local materials used for seasonal displays. All items above, with the exception of numbers 5 and 6, will apply.