

THE MICHIGAN GUILD OF ARTISTS AND ARTISANS EXHIBITION STANDARDS

The Michigan Guild is responsible for the overall impact of its fairs on the public. Through the enforcement of its standards and rules, the Guild seeks to maintain and increase the public's confidence. An impartial and equal enforcement of these standards and rules insures an efficiently run fair for the exhibitor and a suitable atmosphere for sales. **The Michigan Guild has the final say in the interpretation and enforcement of its rules.**

- 1. All work must be the original design of the artist. The essential work required to make each finished piece must actually be done by the artist.**

The essence of this rule is to maintain the long held Guild tradition that the artist is expected to be the major contributor of the time required in the essential production of the work. Helpers or assistants are just that; they do not replace the artist in the full production of a piece. They are permitted to assist in the non-essential and more mundane processes that go into the production of a finished piece.

- 2. All work exhibited is to be the original work of the artist. No reproductions are allowed, including but not limited to offset reproductions, resin castings, injection molded plastics, and commercially printed photographs.**
- 3. All work must be safe, non-toxic, and fit for its intended use. If any work requires special or limited use, this will be fully disclosed and explained to the public.**
- 4. Any commercially produced parts used in a work must play a subordinate role and may not be sold separately.**

The spirit of this rule is to prevent the extensive use of commercially produced parts to replace the artist's involvement in the finished piece. Common sense should rule here. Obviously an artist does not have to make the canvas for a landscape. The concern is with the artist creating finished work that is primarily comprised of commercially produced elements with minimal contribution from the artist. Some examples: A commercially cut stone may be used in a setting that is made by the artist. A commercially cut stone put in a commercially produced setting will not be acceptable. A commercially beveled glass cluster used as part of a more complex design is acceptable. A commercially beveled glass cluster leaded into pieces that simply fill out a background is not.

- 5. Artists should avoid a mass-produced, cluttered, or commercial appearance to their display.**

It is understood that multiples could be a necessary part of a display in certain media where color and size are varied and are required to be available for sale. The spirit of this rule is to attempt to limit displays that show so much of similar product that the look of the display becomes overwhelming. A display that has a look that is cluttered, mass-produced, or commercial will be addressed by Standards Committee members at the show when possible. Adjustments may be requested and compliance will be required. Further action may be taken if compliance is not forthcoming and it may be necessary to address certain violations of this rule after the fair is over.

- 6. The work exhibited by the artist must match the quality and balance of the slides submitted to either the standards review, or for the particular show into which the artist has been juried.**

It is expected that artists exhibit the scope and volume of work on the street that matches the scope and volume of work that is in the slides with which they passed the slide review. It is not acceptable to pass the review with a limited amount of complex and detailed work and come to the fair with a large volume of simple work. If artists wish to display simple and numerous work, this must be presented in that proportion in their review slides.

Understanding that small work can be a staple sale item, an artist may display up to 15% of small work without a separate review slide. The small work must be clearly shown in the artist's booth slide.

It is also understood (and certainly encouraged) that experimentation with new work is part of the creative process. Ten percent (10%) of an artist's display may be devoted to new work, without a separate work slide, if the new work is within the same medium and if the new work is of comparable quality to the artist's review slides.

- 7. All members who exhibit at Guild shows must display an Artist Information Statement, which will be provided by the Guild. Submission of this statement is a membership requirement. This statement will include the method of production, the role of assistants, materials, and an Artist's statement.**
- 8. An artist may distribute brochures and other promotional material that contains only the artist's own work.**

Exemptions

If you feel your work transcends these standards you are welcome to apply to the Standards Committee for determination of eligibility. Exemptions are granted on an individual case basis. A request must be made in writing by May 1 to allow the Committee adequate time for response before the Summer Art Fair.

Acceptability of Specific Work

In the past, the Standards Committee has dealt with many questions about whether specific work complies with our Exhibition Standards. Following is a partial list of work that has been found to be not acceptable in our art fairs. This list is a guideline to help you determine if your work will meet our requirements; it is not exhaustive, and unacceptable work is not limited to the below-named items:

- T-shirts, sweat shirts, hats, and other commercially manufactured clothes, no matter how embellished by the artist
- cut coin jewelry
- jewelry made of manufactured components
- stud earrings in commercial settings
- enamels on manufactured representational copper shapes
- manufactured belt buckles sold separately from the belts
- manufactured tiles with a design as a major component of the piece
- dried flowers, whether they are in groups, arrangement, or bouquets
- wreaths
- anything made in a commercial mold, in any medium
- tole painting
- simple strung beads or simple wired beads, unless each bead is made by the artist
- dough art
- country crafts
- cards which are not produced by the artist; the image must be produced by the artist, no reproductions are allowed
- CDs and tapes
- food

Violations of Rules

Violations of rules will be handled by the Standards Committee. At the Summer Art Fair, every attempt will be made to inform artists as soon as possible of potential standards rules violations by issuing a Standards Warning Report. This report gives the artist a chance to correct the problem right away without penalty. If the problem is not corrected, or if the violation is a continuing problem, the artist may be subject to stronger consequences that may include loss of exhibiting privileges for one year or even permanently. If the Committee is not able to resolve a problem during the fair, the Committee will review the situation and recommend any necessary action after the fair.

At the Standards Slide Review artists are informed by the Committee of any potential standards problems and told what steps to take to correct the problem before the Summer Art Fair.

There are two rules that are considered to be inviolable under any circumstances:

1. Engaging in "buy-sell" practices, that is, buying the work done by another and selling it as your own;
2. Selling commercially produced reproductions, either of the artist's own work or the work of another artist. If it is discovered that an artist has engaged in either of these practices, that artist will permanently lose exhibiting privileges at the Guild.

Appeals

Artists may appeal to the Standards Committee after violation notifications. Appeals must be submitted in writing first, **within thirty days** of the artist receiving the violation notification. An appeal that is presented in person will be limited to fifteen minutes. Notification of approval or denial of the appeal will be sent to the artist, in writing, as soon as possible after the decision has been made. This decision will be final unless the Standards Committee determines that there is significantly new evidence or that a factual error has been committed

(Revised August 1999)