



International Guild of Miniature Artisans, Ltd.

Guidelines for Artisan Membership Application

MAY 2010

Please review these Guidelines carefully before completing the Application Form.

ARTISAN SELECTION CATEGORIES

The following categories are used to classify handcrafted pieces. Artisan membership is awarded to successful applicants in one of these categories.

Please submit **five (5)** pieces if applying in one of the categories in this group:

Accessories	Food	Painting
Animal Figures	Furniture	Pottery & Porcelain
Costuming	Glass	Toys
Figures	Metalwork	Other*
Flowers & Plants	Needlework & Textiles	

Please submit **one (1) to three (3)** pieces if applying in one of the categories in this group:

Landscaping	Structures
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***Other** — If none of the above categories adequately describes your submission, you may apply in this category. Please contact one of the Co-chairs as soon as possible to clearly explain why none of the standard categories is applicable. This will allow the committee to devise a category that is appropriate for your work.

PLEASE NOTE: **Folk Art** and **Wicker** are now subcategories, which can be added to any of the categories above. For example, if you make folk-art furniture, you should apply in the category of Furniture/Folk Art. The guidelines for Folk Art and Wicker are found under Subcategory Guidelines at the end of this document.

EVALUATION CRITERIA AND SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

- The applicant must have been a member of IGMA for at least one year immediately prior to the Artisan Evaluation.
- If you are unsure what category to use, please contact one of the Co-chairs as soon as possible, as this is an important step in the evaluation process.
- All pieces sent for evaluation must have been handcrafted by you within the past two (2) years. Items made from a kit or in a class are unacceptable. The items should demonstrate a range of techniques and skills.
- One (1) to three (3) pieces are required for the Landscaping and Structures categories; five (5) pieces are required for the other remaining categories. Only the pieces designated on the application form will be evaluated.

- Please do not send more than the number of pieces required. Send your best work. The Committee must limit its evaluation to the work submitted. Photographs or reviews of other work will not be considered.
- If any piece in your submission is a reproduction, please send photographs, drawings or photocopies of the original piece. For an original piece, it is recommended that you explain your inspiration. Supporting documentation for each piece in your submission is very important. **It is recommended that you include photographs of the work in various stages of the process.**
- Accessories used to complement your work may be handmade—by you or someone else—or manufactured. In all cases, accessories must be of the same quality as your own work.
- If you are applying for a second or third time, you must submit different items than those previously sent. The same work will not be considered.
- If you are awarded Artisan Membership, you must keep your IGMA membership current. If you let your membership lapse, you will no longer retain Artisan Membership.
- The Guild expects and requires that you maintain in your work the standards for which you were awarded Artisan Membership, for your own benefit and for that of the Guild.
- Members of the Board of Trustees are not permitted to apply for Artisan or Fellow Membership while serving on the Board. If you are anticipating running for office, please consider carefully whether you will be content to wait until your tenure ends before submitting an Artisan application.

CATEGORY GUIDELINES

General Guidelines

Please read this section carefully. It applies to all categories.

The Artisan Selection Committee evaluates many aspects of an applicant's submission, including overall impression, degree of difficulty, workmanship, adherence to scale, and creativity. Your submission should include a diverse selection of pieces within your category, so the Committee can evaluate a variety of your skills. If you are using accessories to enhance the display of your work, they may be either handcrafted—by you or someone else—or manufactured, and they must be of the same quality as your own work. The origin of the accessory should be noted in your documentation.

All materials used in your work must be inert, *i.e.*, not organic, so there is no potential for mold or contamination by insects. Materials that are unacceptable include plants (even if dried), seeds, and any type of food.

If you are submitting work made of air-dried clay, (sometimes referred to as Cold Porcelain) you must provide the Committee with information about the clay. If it is commercially made, please supply the name of the clay. If you use homemade clay, please provide the formula (or recipe), so the Committee can decide whether or not to accept the material. It is recommended that you supply the formula before submitting your work, in case the material is not acceptable.

ACCESSORIES

This is a broad category. Accessories can be made of almost any material. Please use the guidelines that most closely relate to the material you are using. If you submit one type of accessory, the Committee will very likely add a subcategory that reflects the type of work you submitted. For example, a submission of lighting fixtures would be designated as Accessories/Lighting.

ANIMAL FIGURES

- Please read the General Guidelines on page 2.
- The animal figure should be a realistic portrayal and accurate reproduction of the species or breed in miniature scale.
- Attention to detail is very important. Muscular structure, bone structure, limbs, eyes, ears, teeth, tongue, paws, claws, skin, wrinkles, scales, fur, feathers, etc., should be accurately shaped, sized and detailed.
- The animal should have an essence of being alive, and the eyes should have light to suggest this.
- The bottoms of all pieces should be neatly finished.
- Accessories, such as harnesses or saddles, etc., may be handcrafted—by you or someone else—or commercially made, and they must be of the same quality as the animal figure.

COSTUMING

- Please read the General Guidelines on page 2.
- Fabric and trim must be accurately in scale.
- Garments must drape well in a realistic way.
- Stitching should be hidden unless it is a design feature. Fine threads should be used to be in scale.
- No glue, seam sealer or soiling should be visible. Glues must be a non-yellowing type.
- Belts, buttons, bows, jewelry, etc., must be in scale.
- Undergarments must drape well and not add bulk to the finished costume.
- Colors and textures must please the eye and be appropriate for the style and period.
- You must indicate whether or not you have designed the patterns for your garments. If not, you must provide the source of the pattern. Use of another designer's miniature pattern is not acceptable. It is permitted to scale down another designer's full-size pattern; in such a case, you must provide the name and source of the original pattern.
- You may submit costumes on figures or mannequins. In either case, they may be handcrafted or commercially made, and must be of equal quality to your costumes. Likewise, accessories must meet the same requirement.

FIGURES

- Please read the General Guidelines on page 2.
- Human figures must be either hand-sculpted or made from the applicant's own original mold. The use of commercial molds is not acceptable.
- The following materials are acceptable: porcelain, ceramic, metal, resin, papier maché, wood, clay, polymer clay, fabric, leather, or natural fibers.
- One of your figures must be unclothed or minimally clothed (*i.e.*, undergarments only), so that the structure (whether fully sculpted or wired and padded) of the figure itself may be evaluated.
- Correct proportions are necessary, with the exception of fantasy or character figures. Attention to the length of limbs and hands is important.
- Figures should be posed in a natural way and properly displayed (*i.e.*, standing or sitting).
- Figures must be neatly and securely wrapped. Lumps, wire ends or unpadded sections must not be evident. Cloth figures must be smooth and evenly padded.

- ❑ Hands, fingers, feet, nostrils, ears, dimples and other features must be well defined. In particular, the scale and sculpting of hands and feet require careful attention. Many otherwise excellent submissions have lost considerable points due to poor rendering of these vital areas.
- ❑ Shading on facial features should be even and blended. Eye make-up should reflect the period in which the figure is historically based.
- ❑ Wiggling must not show glue, stitching or bald spots. Wigs should not be glued to ears.
- ❑ Accessories may be handcrafted—by you or someone else—or commercially made, and they must be of the same quality as the figure.

FLOWERS & PLANTS

- ❑ Please read the General Guidelines on page 2.
- ❑ Formal cut-flower arrangements should follow all the design rules used for professional full-size flower arrangements. This includes style, balance, texture, movement and the proper use of color and scale.
- ❑ Attention to scale is essential. If a plant is potted, it should be obvious whether the plant is floor size or table size.
- ❑ The flowers and plants should look real.
- ❑ The type of material used for the leaves and petals must not be obvious.
- ❑ The use of laser-cut leaves and petals is acceptable as long as the applicant made the original templates. Altering techniques—painting, shading and shaping—must be used to lend realism and originality.
- ❑ Leaves should vary in size and color. They must be veined and connected to the stems or branches in a realistic way.
- ❑ The use of natural foliage is unacceptable, as it does not demonstrate enough skill and is unstable over time.
- ❑ All pots and vases should complement the work and must be the correct size for the flower arrangement or plant.
- ❑ Containers and other accessories may be handcrafted—by you or someone else—or commercially made, and they must be of the same quality as the work.

FOOD

- ❑ Please read the General Guidelines on page 2.
- ❑ The five pieces submitted should not amount to more than five plates of food or the equivalent. Five tables (or the equivalent) laden with food will not be considered.
- ❑ Submit a good variety of foods using different accessories. Above all, be creative.
- ❑ Foods that are grouped together must be in scale with each other.
- ❑ Use only inert materials. Edible items or spices used in real foods are not to be used in miniature. There is a real possibility of disintegration or the development of mold over time.
- ❑ Surface finishes and textures must be true to the look of real food.
- ❑ Accuracy of color, shading and contrast is important.
- ❑ No glue should be visible, and there must be no evidence of fingerprints.
- ❑ Containers or other accessories may be handcrafted—by you or someone else—or commercially made, and they must be of the same quality as the food.

FURNITURE

Pieces submitted in this category must be made of wood. The only exception is wicker furniture, which may be submitted in this category with a subcategory of Wicker. (See the guidelines for Wicker on page 8.) Metal furniture should be submitted in the Metalwork category. If you are submitting furniture made of yet another material, please contact one of the Co-chairs for help with choosing a category.

- ❑ Please read the General Guidelines on page 2.
- ❑ The overall size and appearance should be in the correct scale as documented in the application.

- ❑ A variety of joinery should be presented showing historical accuracy and the scope of the applicant's expertise.
- ❑ The choice of wood must be appropriate for the furniture in terms of period reproduction or style. The size of the grain should be properly in scale.
- ❑ The thickness of the wood should be properly in scale. Likewise, knot holes should be in scale and used sparingly.
- ❑ All joints should be smooth and even. There should be no holes or gaps where wood parts meet. Joints should also be tight and closed.
- ❑ There should be no evidence of wood filler or excessive sanding to make a joint fit.
- ❑ Drawers should be perfectly square, fit the opening, and slide smoothly yet tightly.
- ❑ No glue should be visible anywhere on the piece.
- ❑ Visible tooling marks are unacceptable.
- ❑ A clear or painted finish must be smooth and without brush marks.
- ❑ Stain on the end-grain should not be too dark compared to the other edges of the wood.
- ❑ The finish material should be realistically in scale and not appear too thick or glossy.
- ❑ All hardware must be in scale with the piece.
- ❑ Hinges must fit tightly and work smoothly. Hinged doors should swing square to the body of the piece and close cleanly without binding.
- ❑ Overall, the furniture piece must sit square and level.
- ❑ Accessories submitted with your work may be handcrafted—by you or someone else—or commercially made, and they must be of the same quality as the furniture.

GLASS

We currently have no guidelines for this category. If you intend to submit items made of glass, please contact one of the Co-chairs as soon as possible, so the Committee can provide you with guidance.

LANDSCAPING

- ❑ Please read the General Guidelines on page 2.
- ❑ If submitting only one piece, it must incorporate several different landscaping features in order to demonstrate a variety of skills. If one piece does not include enough features, please submit three pieces which, overall, include a good variety.
- ❑ Examples of landscaping include a garden or yard, an outdoor scene such as a campground or beach, etc.
- ❑ Features may include—but are not necessarily limited to—trees, shrubs, plants, flowers, walls, pathways, sand, soil, water features, ornamental bridges, grasses, rocks, outdoor ground cover, arbors, sheds, benches, figures, animals, statues, etc.
- ❑ All materials must be in scale and should duplicate nature as closely as possible without the use of natural materials.
- ❑ Natural plant materials should not be used, as they do not demonstrate skill on the part of the applicant. There is also a potential for disintegration over time.
- ❑ The base should be prepared in an appropriate color so that, for example, no bald spots are apparent underneath the overlaying ground cover.
- ❑ Accessories submitted with your work may be handcrafted—by you or someone else—or commercially made, and they must be of the same quality as your work.

PLEASE NOTE: If you submit a very large piece, it will be necessary for you to transport it to the evaluation site. Please contact one of the Co-chairs to make arrangements.

METALWORK

- ❑ Please read the General Guidelines on page 2.
- ❑ Silver, copper and brass may be etched and blackened using a variety of acid products.
- ❑ Tin and iron may be painted to give a proper finish.
- ❑ An applied wire may be used to give the appearance of rolled bead.
- ❑ Tinware and ironware pieces must be fabricated from sheet and wire material rather than being cast. The only exception would be if the original was cast.

- Joints should be soldered with a silver-bearing solder or, in some cases, joined in a riveted and peened style.
- Joints must be flush metal-to-metal; solder should be contained completely within the joint. There should be no visible solder outside the joint.
- In the reproduction of historical pieces, tinsmiths and blacksmiths should not use purchased hinges.
- If using purchased hinges and/or jewelry findings (such as beads for handles, domes for lids, etc.), those items must be re-worked to appear original.
- Components such as handles, lids, knobs, etc., must be properly aligned.
- Accessories submitted with your work may be handcrafted—by you or someone else—or commercially made, and they must be of the same quality as your work.

NEEDLEWORK & TEXTILES

- Please read the General Guidelines on page 2.
- Items made from a kit or in a class are unacceptable.
- Patterns can be original designs or adaptations of existing full-sized work. It is recommended that you send your pattern/chart with your submission.
- It is recommended that you send photos of the full-sized work.
- All finished pieces must be clean, neat, smooth, perpendicular, parallel and soundly constructed. Backs must be equally neatly finished.
- Accessories submitted with your work may be handcrafted—by you or someone else—or commercially made, and they must be of the same quality as your work.
- Bed linens and table linens must drape naturally. The thickness should be in scale.

NEEDLEPOINT:

- For needlepoint, 40-count silk gauze is the largest count allowable for 1:12-scale work.
- Mesh sizes from 40 to 84 stitches per inch are acceptable, as is suitable cloth for surface stitching.
- Threads must be the proper size for the mesh, allowing for uniformity of stitches (no looping or bulging), and texture stitches must be in scale.
- If needlework is submitted on a piece of furniture, each must be compatible and complementary to the other. The furniture may be handcrafted or commercially made, and it must be of equal quality to the needlework.

RUGS (NEEDLEPOINT OR WOVEN):

- Rugs and carpets must each be squared; no diagonal striations should be visible.
- The thickness of rugs must be in scale, not bulky, so the rug lays flat.
- Fringes should be the proper length in scale in proportion to the rug.

PAINTING

- Please read the General Guidelines on page 2.
- The overall effect of the subject matter within its frame should be a pleasing presentation.
- Attention to the surface of the ‘canvas’ is important. If silk or wood is used, it should not be overly evident under the painted surface. The ‘canvas’ should be perfectly flat.
- Attention to the weight of line work and brush stroke needs to be considered in order to keep the painting in scale. All materials, such as type of paint and final finish, should be in scale.
- The reverse of the painting must be clean, except perhaps for the name of the painting, artist and the date.
- Watercolors must adhere to the same guidelines regarding paper and application. The paper must lie perfectly flat.
- Frames should be appropriate in style and not detract from the painting. They may be handcrafted—by you or someone else—or commercially made, and they must be of the same quality as your work. A poorly made and finished frame can cause a deduction in points.

PRINTMAKING:

- The same requirements apply – scale of surface, line and thickness of paper are paramount. Frames also follow the same guidelines as for paintings.
- Preparation of the plates should leave clean edges so that only the image appears on the paper. The paper should lie perfectly flat, and there must be no ink smudged on the back.

POTTERY & PORCELAIN

- Please read the General Guidelines on page 2.
- Clays and porcelains must be appropriately fired. Air-dried and polymer clays may not be submitted in this category. Please see paragraph 2 of the General Guidelines for instructions regarding air-dried and polymer clays.
- A piece may be carved, scored, modeled, burnished, underglazed, glazed, china-painted, lustered, etc.
- Acrylics and other types of paints are not acceptable finishes.
- The walls of a wheel-thrown pot must be in scale to the piece. There should not be excess weight in the foot of the piece.
- If the work is a reproduction of a full-sized piece, it should be as technically accurate as possible. Photographs of the original must accompany the submission.
- Spouts, knobs and handles must be in scale and in proportion to the body of the piece.
- Lids must fit snugly and sit well down into the flange or onto the rim of the piece.
- The bottoms of all pieces should be neatly finished.
- Decorative surfaces must be in scale. Drawn lines should be appropriately fine.
- Glaze applications must be even and not too thick, which would add bulk to the form and fill in dimensional detail.
- Accessories submitted with your work may be handcrafted—by you or someone else—or commercially made, and they must be of the same quality as your work.

STRUCTURES

- Please read the General Guidelines on page 2.
- You may submit either one complete structure or three sections of structures. A complete structure must include interior and exterior architectural elements such as floors, moldings, doors, windows, stairs, ceilings, lighting, clapboards, brick, stone, etc. If submitting three sections of structures, the above elements should be included.
- In addition, send good-quality photographs of at least one of your completed structures. Include various views – front, back, sides, etc. – as well as close-ups to show detail work.
- All architectural details must be accurately scaled and be made of materials that look realistic.
- Accessories submitted with your work may be handcrafted—by you or someone else—or commercially made, and they must be of the same quality as your work.

PLEASE NOTE: If you submit a very large structure, it will be necessary for you to transport it to the evaluation site. Please contact one of the Co-chairs to make arrangements.

TOYS

This is a broad category. Toys can be made of almost any material. Please use the guidelines that most closely relate to the material you are using.

SUBCATEGORY GUIDELINES

FOLK ART

This is traditional art that is produced in particular areas of countries around the world; it is not limited to North America.

- It is extremely important that very comprehensive documentation accompany the submission.

- If this submission is an original, please send photographs of the work from the same family of folk art that inspired you, as well as comprehensive documentation.
- The overall size and appearance should be in the correct scale as documented in the application.
- No glue should be visible anywhere.
- A variety of pieces should be sent to show the scope of your expertise.

WICKER

- For wickerwork, weaving must be tight and even in the solid areas, with equal spacing between ribs. Openwork should have equidistant spokes forming the diamond patterns.
- Waxed linen cord is generally acceptable, but other fibers may be used to get specific effects with even smaller, tighter weaves. Choose the material that will allow you to create the number of rows comparable to the full-sized piece.
- As in other needlework, exact scale may not be possible. However, the illusion of proper scale must be achieved.
- Upright spokes must be finished evenly and neatly. Flush cutting or bending back the spokes to finish the top edge should stay true to what is possible in real wickerwork.
- Wood bases and wheels must be of the same quality and workmanship as the woven sections.
- If you submit your work in the Furniture category, all five pieces must be wicker furniture. If you submit a mix of furniture and accessories, the category will be Accessories.