



International Guild of Miniature Artisans Artisan Membership Information

Are you thinking of applying for Artisan Membership?

We hope the following will give you an idea of what the Council is looking for:

- Is your work of a quality that you feel is deserving of Artisan membership?
- Have you worked with your medium long enough to be innovative?
- It is very important that you send your best work, that it is creative and shows imagination. The Council is looking for something other than copies from a pattern book or something you did in someone else's class. That could be the starting point, but build on it, making it your own.
- The Artisan Selection Council evaluates many aspects of each applicant's submission, including overall impression, degree of difficulty, workmanship, adherence to scale, and creativity. A weighted evaluation system is used, and the applicant's work has to achieve a minimum point total in order to pass. Grading is scored to 100 points. This is divided into the following: Overall Impression 10%, Degree of Difficulty 15%, and Workmanship 75%.

Overall Impression

How is the work presented? What do you think of when you first look at the piece?

The way your work is presented is important. For example, if you are applying in the fine arts category, be sure to put your painting in an attractive, well-made frame. State that the frame is yours if you made it, or if not, who made it. Either way, the frame should be of equal quality to your painting. Use accessories only if necessary. Be sure that any accessories you use are Artisan quality and are needed to present your work in the best possible light; don't overlook their importance.

Degree of Difficulty

You should be working beyond the beginning level before you apply. You need to have worked in your category long enough to make it work for you. If you choose something too ambitious and don't quite get it right, you will lose points. Find your level and do it well with creativity and imagination.

Workmanship

Your piece needs to be well made and in scale. Scale is very important, and proportion is also very important; for example, is the pot the right size for the plant? Do the materials you are using lend themselves to miniatures, or should you be looking for something better? Look for unusual materials and different ways of handling them. Does the finished piece look realistic? The finishing and attention to detail need to be addressed; that extra touch is important. Use glass for windows instead of acrylic. Seal the ends of silk ribbons so they don't fray. Keep your work neat and clean. Make sure there is no glue showing. Finish furniture so it feels silky, not rough. Pieces should fit together to make a pleasant whole.

The Artisan Process

There are four categories of membership within the International Guild of Miniature Artisans, Ltd: **General** Membership, **Family** Membership, **Artisan** Membership and **Fellow** Membership. Anyone may join as a General member or be added as a Family member. This would include all persons who are interested in miniatures, whether they collect, build, sell, or just enjoy the world of miniatures.

Artisan is one of the most sought-after designations in the Guild. To become an Artisan member, one must submit samples of work to be evaluated by the members of the Artisan Selection Council. The Council is composed of Fellow, Artisan, and General members.

You must be a member of IGMA for at least one year immediately prior to applying for Artisan membership. If you wish to apply for Fellow membership in the future, you need to have been an Artisan member for at least a continuous two years immediately prior to applying.

The Application

The Artisan Selection Council meets once a year in the fall. To notify the Council of your intention to apply, contact Sally Manwell, Artisan Selection Chairperson, or Sophia Harris, Guild Administrator.

The Artisan application and guidelines are available for download on the Guild's website. Please read the documents carefully; contact the chairperson if you have questions. Please pay close attention to the details of the application process. The \$50.00 application fee covers up to three attempts, if not successful the first or second time.

After the Council meets, the successful applicants' names are presented to the Board of Trustees for approval. Artisans receive a certificate personalized with the name, date, and category in which Artisan membership was attained. The Artisan certificate should be displayed shows or anywhere your work is shown, but only as long as the Artisan remains a member in good standing of IGMA.

Some applicants, unfortunately, do not earn the required points to succeed. In each case, a letter is sent to the applicant clearly stating why the submission was not successful and offering suggestions for improvement. It is hoped that those comments will be received as constructive.

Applicants may re-apply at any time, and many are successful on their next attempt. Please remember to send your very best work. No matter how great your reputation, the council can evaluate only the pieces you submit. Some people say they need their best pieces for a show. If that is the case, remember that we have your pieces for only a short time. The deadline for submissions is as close as possible to the evaluation meeting. Your pieces are returned as soon as possible after the meeting.

To notify the Council of your intention to apply, contact:

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