



*INSPIRING, NURTURING, AND PROMOTING THE CREATIVE
COMMUNITY OF FINE CRAFTS AND ARTS IN VERMONT*

Welcome to the Vermont Hand Crafters Jury Process

Vermont Hand Crafters was incorporated in 1955 and is the oldest and largest juried craft organization in the state. This 200 member not-for-profit organization of Vermont residents is dedicated to the education, promotion and sale of high quality Vermont crafts. The current membership represents a broad spectrum of artisans. Many of our members are full or part-time professional artisans while others enjoy their craft as a creative outlet or moneymaking hobby.

Member benefits include:

CRAFT VERMONT FINE CRAFT & ART SHOW: Vermont Hand Crafters produces this premier three-day, annual event the week before Thanksgiving at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Burlington, Vermont. This is the largest and oldest Juried Show of Vermont-only artists in the state. The quality and reputation of this event draws thousands of customers from across the state and greater New England. All VHC members have the opportunity to participate in this event.

EASTERN STATES EXHIBITION (THE BIG E): Members of Vermont Hand Crafters may be invited to sell their work at the VHC Gallery located in the Vermont Building at the Big E in West Springfield, MA. The Big E is an eighty-five year old all New England fair with a history of 114,000 people attending per day.

WEBSITE: Our website provides the consumer with year round access to our members by providing contact information, product pictures and links to members' sites.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Each year Vermont Hand Crafters offers scholarships to members wishing to continue their professional development in the field of visual arts.

MARKETING & PROMOTION: Vermont Hand Crafters works to develop and coordinate marketing opportunities for its members, such as ongoing promotion of member's work and art activities via social media. We provide public education and promotion about crafts and their value to the economy.

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PO Box 1184 Williston, Vermont 05495
www.vermonthandcrafters.com 800-373-5429



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JURY CRITERIA

The members of Vermont Hand Crafters support and encourage high quality work. Customers at VHC sales venues expect high quality, and support these standards with their continued attendance and purchases.

**The following criteria must be met:*

Applicants must be legal residents of Vermont.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old at time of application.

Work must fit within an acceptable medium category. See the medium category list below

Work must meet Vermont Hand Crafters' standards for originality, design, production methods, finishing quality, and presentation methods.

Designs must be original and must be developed by the applicant. An exception is made for traditional work, such as quilting and certain needlework designs, and certain woodworking pieces. No commercial designs, kits, pre-assembled elements, or reproductions/copies of the work of other artists is acceptable.

Work must be designed and produced by the applicant, with no more than two production assistants.

The applicant's body of work should be cohesive, and should convey "the voice of the artist" in its originality and individuality.

Purchased or found materials are acceptable in an artist's work, but the finished product must transcend the purchased component in its design and presentation.

Production methods and finishing steps must be appropriate to the materials used, must show attention to detail, and must not have raw, rough, incomplete, or otherwise unsatisfactory details.

Products must be made in a way that does not raise health or safety concerns in relation to normal or recommended use for the item.

Presentation methods must be suitable and appropriate to the particular work. Attention given to presentation should be no less than the attention given to completing the art work. Framed work must be neatly assembled, frames should not be scratched or damaged, with a finished backing, and suitable hanging wire, not clips or other mechanisms. Other hanging work must have mechanisms appropriate to the size and weight of the piece. Standing work must be stable and safe. Work with loose parts or sharp edges must be presented in such a way as to not cause injury in normal use. All wearables must meet appropriate health and safety considerations.

Multiples and reproductions of original work must be approved during the jury process.

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MEDIA CATEGORIES:

Botanicals, dried flowers (products made from materials found in nature)

Pottery

Digital Art (still and moving)

Fiber Decorative (includes fiber arts, basketry)

Fiber Wearable (includes clothing and accessories for humans only)

Fine Art

Glass (includes functional and decorative products)

Jewelry (all mediums)

Leather (includes functional and decorative products)

Metal (includes functional and decorative products)

Mixed Media (includes alternative or recycled materials)

Paper

Photography

Print-Making

Specialty Items (limited categories)

 Foods (includes edible art)

 Personal Care Products (includes soaps, lotions)

 Pet-Use Products

 Candles

Wax (does not include candles. For candles see Specialty Items)

Wood (includes functional and decorative products)

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JURY PROCESS:

Applicants who are invited to participate in the VHC hands-on jury will receive more detailed information, including time and location. Applicants must arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the jury session and bring a copy of their current Vermont driver's license as proof of residency.

Applicants who are invited to the hands-on jury should bring ***no less than five and no more than eight pieces***. Please do not bring more than eight pieces to the jury. We do not have enough space. The pieces presented do not have to be the same ones submitted with the application, but must be in the same medium.

Applicants who plan to sell reproductions, such as prints, cards, or calendars, must bring samples of this work to the jury.

The hands-on jury consists of members of VHC who excel in their fields and understand the criteria and quality expected for membership in VHC. Discussion during the jury process and jury results are always confidential.

While the jury is in session, new applicants meet with the Director of Events for an information and orientation session. Information will be provided about membership and show participation. There will be plenty of time for questions. Applicants are encouraged to bring lunch, snacks and beverages, as the jury session may last for a few hours. When the jury completes its evaluation, applicants leave with their products.

Results will be mailed within two weeks. Applicants who are successfully juried in will receive a membership application. Membership dues are \$75 per year. When the membership application and fee are received, new members will then receive applications to all available opportunities.

Applicants not selected for the hands-on jury, or applicants denied acceptance after the hands-on jury, will be offered suggestions and feedback that may be helpful in order to reapply. In some instances a conditional acceptance is offered, with specific recommendations and criteria.

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JURY APPLICATION:

Completed applications are accepted at any time and jury sessions will be announced as they are scheduled. A \$40.00 non-refundable jury fee, in check, money order, or paid online via credit card, must accompany the application. Current members must send a \$20.00 non-refundable jury fee.

All applications must be accompanied by a detailed description of materials and processes, on a separate page. Applicants must describe the tools and materials that are used, each step in the design and production process, and the function of any paid or unpaid assistants.

Applications must include one set of five photos showing examples of the work produced by the materials and processes described above. The photos do not need to be professionally taken, but should be clear representations of the work. Slides and CDs are not acceptable. Photos will not be returned.

Applications must include a copy of a current VT State driver's license or proof of residence, and a biography which should describe education, apprenticeships, awards, and other pertinent information that illustrates progression of the applicant's skills.

Completed applications must be sent to **Vermont Hand Crafters, P.O. Box 1184, Williston, VT 05495.**
Applications must be typed or printed legibly.

NAME (as it is to appear in all VHC materials) _____

2020 Jury Date applying for: (please circle) April 9, 3pm-5pm June 11, 3pm-5pm August 13, 3pm-5pm

Business/studio name _____

Mailing address _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

Web site _____

Media Category _____

(You may apply for up to two categories - separate photos and process/material description sheet must be submitted for each category.)

Brief Product Description _____

Number of Production Assistants _____

Are you a current member of VHC? _____

Have you ever applied to VHC before? _____ If yes, when? _____ What medium or product? _____

Have you ever been a member of VHC before? _____ If yes, when? _____ What medium or product? _____

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How did you learn about us? _____

Do you belong to any other art organizations? _____ If yes, please list: _____

TESTAMENT:

I certify that the items submitted by me for this jury are representative of the products and quality of work that I would be exhibiting for sale during any marketing opportunities offered by Vermont Hand Crafters. I further attest that the work presented is crafted by me and does not originate from a kit nor is it made from commercially available patterns or molds.

I understand that upon acceptance as a member of VHC, I would be allowed to sell or exhibit only the craft and products presented here for the jury. Should I wish to produce a substantially different craft within the same medium, or work in a different medium, I would be required to present that work for jury. I agree the products I submit for jury into VHC may be photographed at the jury and that these, and the photos that I submit with my VHC membership application, may be used for promotional purposes.

I also certify that I am at least 18 years old and a legal resident of the state of Vermont and will provide proof of residency at the jury session.

Signature _____ Date _____

Postmark date _____

Check or money order number _____

- Detailed description of materials and processes
- Five photos showing examples of the work
- Biography including description of education, apprenticeships, awards, and other pertinent information

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