

Kingston Handloom Weavers and Spinners Quality Standards

Purpose:

To establish quality standards which will ensure a level of excellence of all items produced by KHWS members for sale, thereby promoting the continued development and growth of weaving and spinning. The Quality Control Committee will use these standards for acceptance of items for the annual Show and Sale and other Guild sponsored sales.

General:

1. Originality of design and colour is encouraged. The appropriate use of the fabric and fibre, colour and design are a constant consideration in all work.
2. Copyright laws must be followed
3. All items submitted for sale must be finished. This includes fittings and hardware for purses, wall hangings and other miscellaneous items. Such fittings should complement and enhance the design.
4. The Ministry of Health requires that all finishing material be new. These include zippers, linings, stuffing, and buttons.
5. Commercially woven fabrics may be used for linings (pre-shrunk if necessary); they should not be visible from the outside unless part of the design. Commercially spun threads may be used to embellish finished items.
6. For safety reasons items that will be used near heat sources (lamp shades) must not be made from readily combustible materials.
7. Sharp or small decorative objects are not acceptable on infants or children's goods. Fringes are not acceptable on baby blankets. Toys must not be a swallowing or choking hazard. The eyes on toys must not be buttons or other similar notions. Embroider such detail.
8. Fibre content and care instructions must be identified on the sales tag.
9. All knitted items must be made with handspun yarn.
10. Any item that failed to sell in three successive sales must not be submitted for further sale.
11. The focal point in cards, pictures, calendars and other small miscellaneous decorative items must be the handweaving, spinning or felting.
12. Photographs of woven, handspun or felted works are NOT acceptable for sale.

Weaving and Basketry:

1. Items should be constructed from yarns and fibres appropriate for the use of that item. i.e. soft thread for drapery, firm for rugs. Similarly, weaving patterns should be appropriate for the use of the item.
2. Items with threading or treadling errors are not acceptable. Errors and skips may be woven in and made invisible.
3. Knots are not acceptable; ends from any join must be securely woven in.
4. Weft threads are joined at the selvages.
5. Fringes or hems are preferably done by hand using matching threads. Machine stitching is acceptable, if the stitching is unobtrusive.
6. Wash or steam and press handwoven items to set the threads and stop further shrinkage. Exceptions are rugs, wall hangings baskets and other decorative items.

7. The front and backs of cushions are to be handwoven and the stuffing should have a separate linings.
8. Basket handles should be securely attached to support the weight of the filled basket.
9. Baskets should be finished with no sharp ends protruding

Garments constructed from handwoven fabric:

Generally, garments should look handmade not homemade. A professional appearance should be the goal. If you can't sew well, get someone who can do the job.

1. Fabric used in garment construction must be a minimum of 50% handwoven, excluding linings.
2. Tailored garments should be securely sewn using standard sizes identified on the tag. Garments must be well pressed when presented for sale.
3. Garments must be constructed from appropriate fabrics. For example, coats constructed from loosely woven fabric stretch and sag and are not acceptable. Comfort and durability are important considerations.
4. Sewing thread must match the fabric unless being used as embellishment. All seams must be appropriately finished. Hems must be straight.
5. Garments must be made from preshrunk fabric.

Spinning:

1. Yarn should be evenly spun and plied and of appropriate grist and firmness or softness for the projected use. The exceptions are yarns with intended texture or uneven twist.
2. All spinning fibres must be washed, before or after spinning.
3. All spun yarns must be processed (washed or steamed and blocked) to set the twist.
4. Handspun yarns may be in skeins or wound into balls with a ball winder. Yarn in skeins should be secured with three ties. The yarn must be continuous with no knots.
5. A commercially spun yarn may be used as a core or to ply a novelty yarn. This must be identified on the tag.
6. Yarn must be tagged, identifying the fibre contents, care instructions, weight and yardage, and recommended needle size.
7. For dyed yarn, information regarding the type of dye should be included on the sales tag. Dyes must be colour fast to washing. Information regarding light fastness should be included on the sales tag if possible.
8. Submit for sale sufficient handspun yarn to complete a project. Suggestions for use should be included on the tag.
9. Garments sewn, knitted or crocheted from handspun yarn should use standard sizes marked on the sales tag.

Felting:

1. The degree of felting (soft or hard) must be appropriate for the end use.
2. The finished felt should be of even thickness and be stable.