

## **Kingston Handloom Weavers and Spinners Quality Standards**

### **Purpose:**

To establish quality standards that 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 Assurance Committee will use these standards for acceptance of items for the annual Show and Sale and other Guild sponsored sales.

### **General Standards**

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. Items not of original design must credit the designer.
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 materials 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.
6. For safety reasons, items that will be used near heat sources (such as lampshades) must not be made from readily combustible materials. Items such as trivets or oven mitts should be lined with heatproof fabric.
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. The focal point in cards, pictures, calendars and other small miscellaneous decorative items must be the handweaving, spinning or felting.
10. Photographs of woven, handspun or felted works are not acceptable for sale.
11. Fleece and unspun fibre are not permitted 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 for sale. Errors and skips must be woven in and made invisible before sale.
3. Knots are not acceptable. Ends from any join must be securely woven in and be unobtrusive.
4. Weft threads are to be joined at the selvedge.
5. Machine stitched hem is acceptable but must be unobtrusive. Fringes must be hem-stitched and/or knotted or twisted. Machine zig-zag stitching a fringe is not acceptable.
6. Handwoven items must be washed and steam pressed to set the threads and stop further shrinkage. Exceptions are rugs, wall hangings, baskets and other decorative items.
7. The fronts of cushions are to be handwoven and the stuffing should have a separate lining.
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 to 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 spun yarns must be processed (washed or steamed, and blocked) to set the twist. Plied yarn must be balanced, unless the unbalance is an intended design feature.
3. Handspun yarns must be in skeins. Yarn in skeins should be secured with at least three ties. The yarn must be continuous with preferably no knots. (One knot per skein will be acceptable).
4. A commercially spun yarn may be used as a core, or to ply a novelty yarn, or as reinforcement in the toes and heels of socks. Elastic may be used. This must be identified on the tag.
5. Yarn must be tagged, identifying the fibre content, care instructions, weight and yardage/meterage. Fingering yarn should be labelled as such, or as 'sock weight yarn' not as 'sock yarn'. Suggestions for use should be included on the tag.
6. Yarns may be labelled with dyeing information, such as nature dyed or hand dyed. All dyes should be light fast and colour fast, and special washing information should be included on the tag if necessary.

## **Knitting, Crochet and other handwork**

1. All knitted, crocheted and other handwork items must be made with handspun yarn. Ground fabrics for needlework may be commercially made.
2. Items should be constructed from yarns and fibres appropriate for the use of that item (i.e. soft yarns for next to skin, coarser for outerwear). Similarly, patterns should be appropriate for the use of the item.
3. Items with errors are not acceptable for sale. Errors must be corrected and made invisible before sale.
4. Knots are not acceptable. Ends from any join must be securely woven in and be unobtrusive.
5. Items must be clean, washed (and blocked if necessary) and dried before sale.
6. See General Standards for details on embellishments and stuffed items.

## **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.
3. Garments constructed from felt should use standard sizes marked on the sales tag.