



NEEDLE ARTS

Needle Arts Exhibit
Judges Score Card

	Excellent	Good	Needs to be Improved	Comments
General Appearance Clean and attractive Originality Overall effect				
Materials Used Suitable for design Suitable for type Stitchery Suitable for intended use				
Color and Design Color Combination Balance and harmony Suitable design				
Workmanship Stitching Workmanship on backside Shaped, blocked or pressed Edges finished				

NEEDLE ARTS EXHIBITS

Judging Standards

General Appearance 25%

Needle work is clean, neat and attractive
Needle work has originality
Purpose of the needle work is easily identified
Finished product has a natural look, not matted nor pressed flat

Materials 15%

Material selected is suited for the design and type of needlework
Material is suited to the intended use of the finished needlework
Threads, needles and other notions are the best choice for the project

Color and Design 30%

Design suited to the project
Design does not interfere with the intended use of the item
Design does not include too much detail or color
Design placed accurately
Color combination harmonize well with design and project

Workmanship 30%

Stitches are even and tension is uniformed
Stitches on the wrong side is as neat as on the right side
Stitched and threads from one design are not seen in another design
Size of threads, needles, etc are suited to the project
No evidence of puckering in the finished article
Shaping, blocking and pressing properly done
Appropriate finish selected and properly done for the project

NEEDLARTS

Outline for Hints and What to Look For

- Overall Appearance
 - Pleasing to the eye
 - Right angles where appropriate
 - Blocked when appropriate
 - If framed, is item centered? smooth? properly enclosed? is there sufficient space so no stitches are crushed down?
 - Presentation
 - Kits - markings
- Stitches
 - Types of stitches
 - Are threads consistent in their direction?
 - Is the tension even?
 - Ends showing?
 - Tails even or hidden?
 - Size (of stitches) - is it important?
 - Appropriateness of the particular stitch?
 - Are strands laying next to each other? - not overlapping (especially in smocking)
 - Blending
- Thread
 - Stranded?
 - Twisted?
 - Grain?
 - Appropriateness for the garment, hem or picture?
 - Coverage?
 - Traveling - appropriate or not?
- Fabric
 - Appropriateness
 - Finishing
 - Thread used
 - Types of fabric
 - Linings and borders
- Color
 - Appropriateness
 - Impression
 - Stereotypes
 - Changes (within a piece)
- Finishing Techniques
 - Appropriateness
 - Seams - types
 - Serging
 - Binding
 - Hand
 - Machine

Score Sheet for Needle Arts

Exhibitor Number

Appearance - 50 points

Clean, neat, well blocked

Neatly finished

Finishing materials enhance needlework

Stitch interpretation

Creativity

Workmanship - 50 points

Stitches well formed

Tension uniform

Threads well secured

Fabric/canvas coverage

No obvious traveling

Judging Needlework

Maggie Bunch
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The judge and assistants:

- Magnification & lighting
- Pencils not pens
- Clean hands
- No food or drinks on the table

Preview the entries with the assistant.

Entries should be clean, pressed, finished, entered in correct category especially Commercial vs. original design.

- Commercial designs are someone else's use of color, motif and placement. The only thing you need to judge is the stitching.
- Original work should be judge on design as well as quality of stitching.

The stitching:

- Use of ground material: is it functional for the intended use?
- Are the stitches formed properly?
- Is the tension consistent throughout the work?

Use of thread:

- Correct size of thread or strands of floss to fill the space.
- Untwisted: plies of the thread should be side by side
- Used in correct direction, with the twist
- Fullness throughout, not thin at the end.
- No knots or clumps should be visible from the right side.
- No tails or trails on the back showing through.

Embellishments:

Beads, buttons and charms should be to scale and used correctly and secured properly.

Framing:

- Suited to the piece in size, scale and design?
- Frame and matting straight along the threads of the fabric.
- No additional threads or hair should be present.

Finishing:

- Sewn straight.
- No visible bumps or folds in the fabrics.

The Basics of Judging Needle Arts

Maggie Bunch

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In the best of circumstances, you will judge what techniques you know. Generally, you will be asked to evaluate a variety of techniques within the same Fair.

Needle arts covers a broad range of techniques from embroidery to canvas work to counted thread work to knitting and crochet. Each will be subdivided by size and/or function. For instance, embroidery may be divided into crewelwork, surface embroidery, Brazilian embroidery, and further divided into pictures, table covering, tea towels, pillows etc.

The Fair Book is the guide to group like items together. Entries are organized by the Fair Staff before the judges arrive. However, if you find a piece in a category that just does not work, ask the Staff to categorize the piece correctly. The goal is to educate the public so helping the Staff is ok, even they may not know every technique.

General tips for judging needlework:

Presentation: is the piece clean, ironed, framed or finished properly?

Materials: are the materials used correctly and do they suit the piece?

Threads such as yarn, embroidery floss, perle cotton, crochet thread all have a twist. The twist should work with the piece and be consistent within the piece. Is the thread used to the 'bare thread'? The fullness or coverage should be consistent through out every stitch.

Markings/lines: are the drawn or printed lines removed or at least stitched over with full coverage?

Knots: are they visible from the front? Are they neat and tidy with short tails?

Stitches: are the stitches formed properly, working together with each other?

The most important thing to remember is TECHNIQUE. Please keep personal opinions and taste to yourself while judging.

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