

AHCL State Cultural Arts Categories Dictionary and Rules

Cultural arts help to explain the world in which we live through an exploration of creativity. They are multidisciplinary, cross-genre, and focus more on the process than the finished product. The Cultural Arts category descriptions and rules are intended to reflect this focus, with an emphasis on handmade items rather than those made by means of automation. Please see the AHCL website at alhomemakers.club for details on completing entry forms and check-in forms.

Rules

- 1) Items that do not meet these definitions will be disqualified at the state competition.
- 2) All items must be created by the person submitting them and completed since the previous year's county competition. **Commercial quilting** - defined as any quilting done by someone other than the person entering the item is not allowed.
- 3) Counties may only submit one first-place winner per category. Individuals or individual clubs are not permitted to submit items to the state competition.
- 4) Items are limited in size. Except for **Categories 2, 7 & 19, items must not exceed 20 x 24 inches**, including frames and embellishments. Items such as clothing, afghans, and similar items that can be folded to fit within this size limitation for display are permitted.
- 5) A state membership number is required for each entry and must be included on the entry form.
- 6) **Crib/baby quilts, bed quilts, and quilted throws are only allowed in Category 7.**
- 7) **Wreaths are limited to 20 inches in diameter and are only permitted in Category 19.**

1. FINE ARTS - (Finished item, with or without frame, can be no larger than 20" x 24").

- A. **Watercolor** - paintings made where all pigments are mixed with water rather than with oil, and also the paintings produced by this process. It may be applied to paper or other flat surfaces.
- B. **Oils** - painting where a type of paint is used that is made with natural oils such as linseed, walnut, or poppy, as the medium to bind the pigment. Also includes water-mixable oils. It may be applied to canvas boards or other flat surfaces.
- C. **Colored Pencil/Pastel/Marker/Gel Pen** - Any painting or drawing made with colored pencils, crayons, markers, or gel pens. May be an (1.) original drawing or from a (2.) printed page. It may be applied to paper or other flat surfaces.
- D. **Acrylics** - paintings made where the paint is fast-drying paint containing pigment suspended in an acrylic polymer emulsion. It may be applied to canvas, board, or other flat surfaces. It may be an (1) original painting, a (2) paint-by-number kit – where the design is pre-printed on the canvas; or (3) paint pouring – a technique where a pouring medium is added to acrylic paints to make them more fluid
- E. **Decorative** - Any painting technique or medium applied to a surface other than paper or canvas. Contemporary decorative painting encompasses tole painting, folk art, and faux finishing, among others.
- F. **Mixed Media** uses more than one form of art medium or material, including collage and assemblage. It may be applied to canvas, board, or other flat surfaces. Includes resin added to the surface.
- G. **Drawing** - the art or technique of producing images on a surface, usually paper, by means of marks, usually of ink, graphite, chalk, or charcoal.

2. PHOTOGRAPHY. A photograph may be entered in only one category. For example, the same photo may not be entered in Landscape - color and Landscape - Black & White. Nor can a photo be entered in both action and animals. No frames or mats. Categories A & B - 4x6 (or 4x5.3) Mounted on 8 1/2 x11 Neutral or White colored Cardstock folded in half. Category C - 8x10 Mounted on Manila file folders.

- A. **Color** -photography that uses all colors which can be produced. It does not include hand colored or Photo chrome photographs.

Landscape - landscape photography is scenery, of any kind from wilderness vistas to urban cityscapes. The picture must contain some type of land or sea. The primary subject is the scenery, although the picture may contain other, secondary elements such as people, animals, or

objects that are not truly part of the scenery. Landscape photographers show little or no human activity in their photos.

Action - photographs of some type of fast-moving action.

Architecture - photography that will convey the experience of being in and around a built environment. Photos capture the exteriors and/or interiors of domestic, commercial, religious, institutional, engineering structures and anything that is man-made.

Animals - photographs of any of a kingdom of living things including many-celled organisms that typically differ from plants. Mammals, birds, reptiles and insects all fall into this category.

Human Subject - photographs that include all or part of the human being as the principal focus of the picture.

Botanical - photographs depict plants accurately, including trees, grasses, fungi etc.

Other – any photographs **not described in another category.**

- B. Black & White** - photographs include black and white, plus varying shades of gray, and sometimes sepia, but no other colors.

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- C. Photography - Special Theme**– (check current Cultural Arts list for topic) must be 8 inches by 10 inches, mounted on a manila file folder.

3. FIBER ARTS

- A. Knitting** - to create an item by interlacing yarn or thread in a series of connected loops with long, eyeless needles

1. **Wearable** -items that can be worn, especially a garment, shawl or accessory

2. **Decorative** – items used to decorate or embellish, other items not wearable or blanket/afghan

3. **Blankets/Afghans** - items meant to drape over a bed or person and used for warmth.

- B. Crocheting** – needlework consisting of the interlocking of looped stitches formed with thread or yarn and a hooked needle

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- C. Macrame** – fabric or articles made by the art of tying knots in patterns.

- D. Other** - any other item not described in previous categories, which uses textiles such as fabric, yarn, and natural and synthetic fibers. It focuses on the materials and on the manual labor involved as part of its significance. **Weaving is included. Excludes stuffed Animals.**

- 4. HANDSTITCHERY**- handcraft of decoration using a needle and thread or yarn. Other materials, such as metal strips, pearls, beads, quills, sequins, etc. may also be incorporated to embellish the handcraft. Frames may be used, but overall size cannot exceed **20" x 24"**.

- A. **Embroidery** - a craft of decorating fabric or other materials with needle and thread or yarn (called crewel embroidery).
- B. **Cross Stitch** – handcraft of decorating fabric by using a series of “X’s” with needle and thread. May be counted or stamped.

5. HERITAGE SKILLS

- A. **Basketry** - creating three-dimensional objects by interlacing flexible materials like twigs, reeds, grasses, and even synthetic fibers. It involves techniques such as coiling, plaiting, twining, and wickerwork to form containers or decorative items.
- B. **Decoupage** - A decorative technique in which a design is made of cut-out pieces of printed paper or other material glued onto an object to obtain a smooth finish. It may be embellished with paint but does not include Collage.

6. RECYCLED CRAFTS – to recondition and adapt to a new use or function something to create an item. The item must have been used before, not a new item repurposed. Quilted items are allowed. -include a short note on previous use and how it was changed/recycled

- A. **Wearable** - to recondition and adapt to a new use or function, something to create an item that can be worn, especially a garment or an accessory.
- B. **Other** - to recondition and adapt to a new use or function, something used to decorate or embellish; other items not intended for wear.

7. QUILTS - a bed cover made of two layers of fabric with a layer of padding (wadding) in between, held together by lines of stitching. Sizes include crib, throw & bed quilt. Wall hangings are not included. No commercial quilting is allowed*. Full-size - crib/baby/throw/bed quilts are only permitted in this category.

- A. **Hand Quilted** - Stitching through the three (3) layers of a traditional quilt by hand. Appliquéd or pieced work is done by hand. May be appliquéd, pieced, or ‘whole cloth/panel’.
- B. **Machine-quilted** - the same as hand quilting, only it is done using a sewing machine.
 - 1. **Appliquéd** - the art of sewing smaller pieces of fabric onto a larger background by hand or by machine.
 - 2. **Pieced** - pieces of fabric that are sewn together in some pattern, either by hand or by machine.
 - 3. **Wholecloth or Panel** -A Wholecloth quilt is made of a single length of fabric. The quilting stitches themselves form the design of the quilt. The panel is fabric pre-printed with some sort of picture or scene. Fabric panels are ready to use, so there's no need to cut them up for patchwork.
- C. **Baby Quilts** - While there is no set rule, the most common size and dimensions of a baby quilt are approximately the size of a crib bed or mattress, or 36" x52".
- D. **Quilt Tops**- The front of a quilt prior to layering and quilting. It can be pieced or appliquéd.

*Commercial quilting is defined as any quilting done by someone other than the person entering the item.

8. WRITING - No frames, plain white paper only. Secured in report folders.

- A. **Prose** –
 - 1. **Fiction** - a short story, novel, novella, screenplay, or drama, or other type of writing that is not factual. (500-5000 words)
 - 2. **Non-Fiction** - Non-fiction writing is always informative. It communicates knowledge about facts, situations, or events. (500-5000 words)
- B. **Poetry** - a poem is a composition written in verse. Poems may take the form of measures consisting of patterns of stresses (metric feet) or of patterns of different-length syllables (as in classical prosody); and they may or may not utilize rhyme. (100-2000 words)

9. CLOTHING/SEWING – includes quilted items

- A. **Decorated** – pre-made clothing that has been adorned with something ornamental, embellished, sewn, or painted.
- B. **Hand-made** - an item that is either hand-sewn or made on a machine by an individual that is (1) wearable or (2) other – non-wearable. Quilted wall hangings are included, but they must not have been commercially quilted.

10. HOLIDAY DECORATIONS - anything that is created, embellished, sewn, painted, and/or hand-made that reflects the theme of the holiday, making it more attractive by adding ornament, color, etc. No sets or wreaths. Kits are allowed. **Quilting is allowed.**

- A. **Easter** –reflects Easter or Spring
- B. **Valentine** -reflects the theme of Valentine’s Day
- C. **4th of July** – reflects the theme of Independence Day or is Patriotic in theme
- D. **Halloween** – reflects the theme of Halloween
- E. **Thanksgiving/Fall** – reflects the theme of Thanksgiving or Fall
- F. **Christmas** -reflects the theme of Christmas or the winter holidays
 - 1. **Ornaments** (must be securely displayed) – item sized appropriately to hang on a tree
 - 2. **Decorative** – an item for display or decoration that is not meant to hang on a tree

11. JEWELRY - any article for personal adornment that is made from materials consisting of stone, glass, wood, shell, plastic, fibers or the like.

12. BEADING - Decorative items, **other than jewelry**, that are created or embellished with beads. (Does not include diamond painting).

13. DIAMOND PAINTING – Diamond Painting or Diamond art is a form of mosaic art where you apply shiny resins (plastic beads or diamonds) onto a pre-glued canvas to complete the painting. There is no stitching, thread, or paint involved. A diamond painting may be full-drill (entire canvas is covered) or partial. Finished items, with or without a frame, can be no larger than **20" x 24"**. **Diamond art is not allowed in any other category.**

14. GOURD ART - creating works of art by painting, carving, burning, and/or embellishing dried gourd shells. No plastic/artificial shells allowed.

15. PAPER CRAFTS

- A. **Greeting Card** - Any paper craft that is to be used as some type of greeting. Must be in card format, decorated using a general theme (Christmas, Birthday, Thank you, etc.) with or without an envelope.
- B. **Scrap Booking** - a page of a book or album in which to mount and decorate, with newspaper clippings, pictures, etc., documenting any activity.
- C. **Book Folding** – a craft where pages of a book are folded and/or cut to create a 3D image or design when viewed from the front or side
- D. **Other** - any other item not meeting the definitions of Greeting Cards, Scrapbooking, or book folding that is created or embellished with paper.

16. HANDBAGS – Handmade. Not an embellished, premade item. No Kits. **Quilting is allowed.**

- A. **Purses** – or handbags- are small bags designed for carrying essentials, focusing on organization, style, and security for events or quick outings.
- B. **Totes** - characterized by their large size, spacious open interior, and two durable handles- are used for carrying many items for daily use, work, or travel.

17. TOYS - handmade - anything that is made from scratch that is designed to be used in play. **Quilting is allowed.**

A. Stuffed Animals/figures - a toy animal or other figure made of fabric, crocheted, or knitted and stuffed with a soft filling

B. Other – toy item other than a stuffed animal/figure described above.

18. WOODWORKING - activity or skill of making items from wood, and includes cabinetry and furniture, wood carving, joinery, carpentry, and woodburning & woodturning. May be painted, unpainted or stained. No Kits are allowed. Laser cutting is not permitted.

19. WREATHS – Circular band of flowers, foliage, or ornamental work for any decorative purpose with a finished size no larger than 20" in diameter, including any embellishments, such as ribbons, etc. Wreaths are not allowed in any other category.

20. RESIN ART - Resin art is a form of art that uses a liquid synthetic resin, typically epoxy resin, that is mixed with a hardener and poured or cast to create durable, often glossy pieces such as coasters, sculptures, & trays. It does not include art created on a canvas or panel.