

STANDARDS OF QUALITY

TEXTILES: Embroidery and Smocking

1. Designs must show originality. A reproduction of a traditional design motif must be clearly identified as such. Works created from commercial patterns, kits or commercially painted or printed background material will not be accepted.
2. Design notes must be submitted with work in a professional, comprehensive format, or be available upon request as proof of originality.
3. Finished pieces must show that the maker has an understanding of design and its application, as well as an affinity for the special characteristics of the materials chosen.

Materials

1. All materials used should be of good quality, and suitable to the technique used.
2. Threads should be untwisted when multiple strands are used.

Technique

1. Stitches should be properly executed.
2. Work should be of consistent and even tension so the fabric and thread are not drawn and puckered, unless this is part of the design.
3. Grain lines both lengthwise and crosswise must be maintained to ensure an evenly finished piece.
4. Hand and machine embroidered articles should demonstrate skilful use of the capabilities of the techniques and be suitable to the process used.
5. Work must be clean, and the back of the work must be neat.
6. Design marks must be covered or removed. Use of a hoop during construction should not be evident on the finished piece.
7. All ends must be woven in. Knots should not be visible except in instances where such is an acceptable part of the process (i.e. smocking, gold work). An exception may be in the case of traditional duffle slippers where heavy wear is to be expected.
8. Embroidery may be framed or displayed under glass. If a frame is used, it should be of high quality, and enhance the embroidery, rather than detract from or dominate it. Work should be properly stretched before framing.

9. Articles that are machine embroidered must be clearly labelled "Machine Embroidered".

Smocking

1. Traditional smocking should be elastic and of even tension
2. Loops should not cross more than three pleats.
3. All rows of smocking should line up at the side seams.
4. Smocking should be centred where applicable.
5. Beginning and ending pleats must be caught evenly in the seam.

* Embroiderers should note that standards for sewing and garment construction may also be pertinent and should be consulted.

* Fibre content labelling for textiles is subject to Industry Canada regulation. Articles must carry correct labelling noting fibre content and maker identity. In addition, the Craft Council recommends that instructions for use and care accompany each article.