

STANDARDS OF QUALITY

ENAMELLING

Materials

1. The colours of the enamels should be clear and crisp, showing the distinct qualities of each, unless the craftsperson deliberately intends otherwise.
2. Opaque enamels should be crisp and clean; transparent enamels should be clear and jewel-like; opalescent enamels should have a milky, opalescent appearance.
3. Commercial, pre-cut shapes may be used only where these are so neutral as to have no influence on the aesthetic of the finished piece.
4. Commercial findings may be used, but must be subordinate to the contribution of the craftsperson to the finished piece.

Technique

5. If a combination of techniques is used, they should complement one another.
6. There should be no unnatural warpage of the metal.
7. Enamels should be properly fused to the base, with no crazing, chipping, cracking or pick marks.
8. Enamel should be of a pleasing thickness, being neither too thick nor too thin, and have neither bubbles nor pits.
9. Edges should be well finished, smooth to the touch, uniform in enamel thickness and free from tool marks and firescale.
10. Wire ends should be neatly filed and evenly joined. Tool marks should be removed. Wire should adhere properly, without gaps and without sinking into the enamel.
11. If stoning is used in the final finish, the piece should be stoned level, and the full width of the wires.
12. If foil is used beneath a transparent enamel, it should lie flat and enhance the colour of the chosen transparent.
13. Enamel work should be neither overfired nor underfired, unless such is part of the design, and is intended by the maker.

14. The back of an enamelled piece is judged similarly as the front. The enamel used should be of a quality equal to that used on the front and not a mixture of leftover enamels known as "counter enamel".

* Enamellers should note that standards for metalwork may also be pertinent and should be consulted.