

MCA Center for Maine Craft Jury Process

The Center for Maine Craft jury process is open to all craftspeople, including MCA members and non-members, who live and work, at least seasonally, in Maine. All qualifying work must be well conceived and expertly executed in Maine. It also must be made by hand or with the use of appropriate equipment and tools.

The Center has two juries, one for **craftwork** and one for **non-craft work** (“complementary” products). The craft juries are held at the Center six times per year and require the artist to be present. Complementary products are evaluated on a rolling basis, and do not require the vendor to be present. **All jury applicants are required to pay a jury fee *except* MCA Professional and Emerging members.**

Jury Fees:	Non-Members	\$15
	MCA Basic Members	\$10
	Individuals within MCA Institutional memberships	\$10

Craft Jury:

The Center for Maine Craft represents a broad spectrum of media, technique, and creative design. The following categories of contemporary fine craft are juried:

Ceramics	Fiber	Furniture	Glass
Jewelry	Metal	Mixed Media	Wood

2016 Craft Jury Schedule:

January: N/A	May 7 th 1-4 pm (Sun)	September 7 th 4-7 pm (Thurs)
February N/A	June: N/A	October 3 rd 3-6 pm (Tues)
March 5 th 12-3 pm (Sun)	July: N/A	November 6 th 2-5 pm (Mon)
April 3 rd 3-6 pm (Mon)	August: N/A	December: N/A

To reserve an appointment for a Craft Jury, call 207-588-0021 or email: sbliss@mainecrafts.org

Complementary Jury: reviewed on a rolling basis

Books	Cards	Calendars	CDs
Candles	Food Products	Prints	Photography
T-shirts	Pet Products	Personal Care	DVDs

To have your complementary product considered, please submit samples of your product, Complementary **Jury Form** and the \$15 jury fee to the Center. If/when your product is accepted and ordered you will be required to maintain a Retail level membership. Prints and Photography require a Professional level membership.

Mail: Center for Maine Craft PO Box 342 Gardiner, ME 04345

Deliver: Center for Maine Craft 288 Lewiston Rd, West Gardiner, ME 04345

Categories not accepted: Dried flower arrangements; pressed flowers; seed and pod decorations; cut bottles and embellished objects such as non-artisan made painted boxes, glasses, stones, shells, and buttons. Original works of art such as paintings. Beaded jewelry assembled of only purchased components (jewelry made with artist-made beads or findings is acceptable). Objects made from commercial kits or commercially available plans are also not acceptable.

What happens on Jury day?

The purpose of the jury is to identify new high quality craftwork in different mediums and at different price points. If your work is approved, it will be in an approved database that has the *potential* to be selected by the Center Manager for sale at the Center. Work representing a different medium presented by the same artist needs to go through its own jury process. For example if an artist has ceramic work approved for sale at the Center but wants to also sell new glass work, the artist would need to re-jury for glass.

Jury Day Check List – Please bring the following to your appointment:

- Self Assessment Tool – with completed worksheet**
- Product -a cohesive and well-rounded representation of your work (5-10 items)**
- Jury Submission Form -filled out and ready to leave**
- Images - one to two sheets of images ready to leave**

1. The jury takes place at the Center for Maine Craft located at 288 Lewiston Rd. West Gardiner 04345. The Center is located inside the West Gardiner Travel Plaza.
2. Jury members consist of the Center Manager, an MCA board and/or staff member, and/or a professional consultant and/or MCA artist member who will review work and approve it for possible future orders according to the Center's needs for seasonal sales, price levels, and medium or type of work.
3. **Craft work will be juried based on:**
 - originality
 - execution of design
 - technique and craftsmanship
 - price point
 - creative use of materials
 - aesthetic qualities
4. You have been assigned to one **15 min time slot** on the day of the jury. Please arrive on time and check in at the front desk. It is important to note that the 15 min appointment includes the set up and take down time. When your name is called, set up your work, paperwork, and images in the jury room as quickly as possible. Staff will then ask you to leave the room. **If you are late you will potentially have to wait until there is available space at the end of the three-hour jury session.**
5. The jury will privately deliberate and assess the work.
6. You will then be called back into a **brief interview** with jurors to ask and answer any questions or explain aspects of your work. The Jury will also discuss packaging, pricing, and marketability of work with artists if appropriate.
7. After the interview, you will **quickly pack up your work and are free to leave.**

8. **You will be notified via email from the Center Manager by the end of the month** that your work has been entered into one of three groups:

- a) **Approved (POOL):** All approved craft work will be put into a database available to the Center Manager to order as needed. Orders are not guaranteed within any set time frame. Orders from this Pool depend upon demand, seasonality, similarity to current products at the Center, price points, vendor rotation and other factors related to retail commerce. Center Manager will be **ordering new products each season** from the approved Pool. It is recommended that you stay in communication with Center Management if your work changes or new product is being produced.
- b) **Approved (YES):** Work will be ordered within the next ordering cycle which could take up to 6 months from time of approval. Once your craftwork is ordered for placement in the Center and you are not already a current member you will need to become an MCA member at the Professional or first time Emerging level membership. Craftwork ordered for the Center will be on a **Consignment** basis unless otherwise determined by Center Manager. Vendor will be required to read/sign a "Vendor Consignment Agreement" document.
- c) **Not Approved (NO)** work that is not considered to be an appropriate fit for the Center inventory.

Center for Maine Craft Applicant/Vendor Obligations

- Applicants must be current seasonal or year-round residents of Maine.
- Applicants must be professional, capable of producing work of consistent quality, and responsible for fulfilling orders obtained from Center for Maine Craft.
- All work in the Center for Maine Craft retail gallery must be original and created by the artist or under the artist's direct supervision. Applicants must submit only their own work, not that made by others. All work must be original and handmade in Maine or with the use of appropriate equipment and tools. Seconds and work of inferior quality are not permitted.
- Applicants must agree to abide by the general terms and conditions of The Center for Maine Craft as stated in this document.

The Maine Crafts Association believes strongly in the benefits it offers its members. The Center for Maine Craft is a retail outlet for craft, but in addition to offering a sales venue through the Center, MCA also offers educational, marketing, networking, and support services to craft artists. We strongly urge all MCA members to take advantage of these important benefits. For more information about membership levels and benefits, visit www.mainecrafts.org.

Self-Assessment Tool – Am I ready for the Center for Maine Craft?

Please use this self-assessment tool to determine if you, your business and your product are a good match for the Center for Maine Craft. Checking off all circles is not required, but if you check less than half, you may require additional training or support before we can carry your product.

- My product is made in Maine and I live in Maine
- My product is made (or composed of components I have made) using craft/art methods
- I have personally visited the Center for Maine Craft and believe my product(s) fit the price point, quality, and standards represented
- I have sold my product to customers beyond my friends and family
- I have done pricing research and know how to price my work
- I have an email
- I have a website
- My products are available to purchase online
- I consign my product(s) with other retailers
- I wholesale my product with other retailers
- The cost of one of my product(s) is the same anywhere a customer buys it (i.e. my studio, a gallery, a craft show, the farmer's market, online). With the exception of seconds or a special sale or promotion.
- The gross sales from my product exceeded \$1000 last year
- I have a bank account associated with my business name
- I have high quality images of my product(s)
- I have marketing materials such as: business cards, brochures, catalogues, postcards
- My products have a warranty, guarantee or statement of quality