

What to Know About the Guild's Jury Process

Preparing for a jury session can be a daunting process, but don't let it overwhelm you. We have provided some tips and suggestions to help you prepare, and we are always happy to answer any questions that may come up.

The KGAC jury process is meant to include those artists whose work is of exemplary quality. The standards of KGAC are not taken lightly for they create the reputation for excellence on which the organization bases its entire operation. The standards level applied at jury is solely that of this organization and its jurors. It is not based on the levels of any other organization or groups.

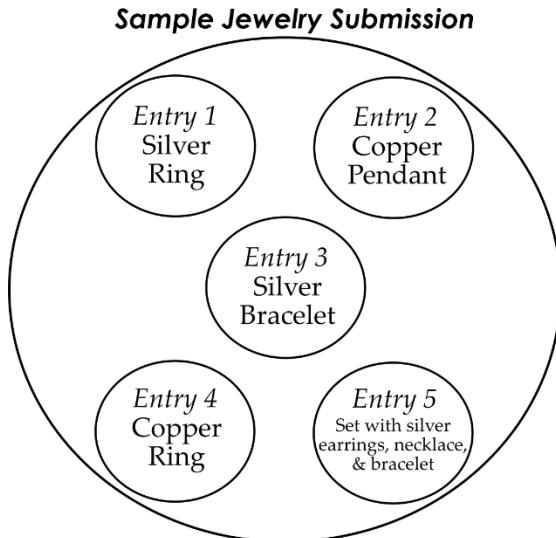
Consistent design, workmanship, and overall excellence are essential. The submitted work must be representative of the applicants' best efforts both creatively and technically. Marketability of work is not considered a criterion for acceptance.

• Your Entry

A submission to a jury session will consist of five individual entries in a single medium. (Additional mediums require their own entry fee and application forms.) Entries should represent your best work and must have been created within the past three years. Your submission should demonstrate your range of creativity within the medium. For example, a potter should not submit five coffee mugs; a mug, a vase, a pitcher, a bowl, and a platter would make a better submission.

Although not required, you may submit a set of items as an individual entry. A set consists of up to three items that serve in relation to one another. For example, a cup and saucer would be considered a set, as would a coordinated earring, necklace, and bracelet combination.

Work employing techniques, styles, or materials that vary greatly should not be mixed within a single submission. To give you an idea, a fiber artist who practices weaving and knitting would need two submissions, entry fees, and application papers, as would a jeweler who creates both metal and wood jewelry.



● **Categories**

Categorization helps the Guild with recordkeeping and other aspects of Guild operations. When filling out your entry forms, the category line should be filled out in a “medium/description” format. For example, a potter would use “clay/hand thrown” or “clay/sculptural.” A fiber artist would use “fiber/weaving” or “fiber/quilting.” Of course, we are happy to provide any further explanation needed.

● **Tips & Suggestions**

Show Variety while still demonstrating a clear “Body of Work” – Let the jurors see a large range of your creativity. Show off various color combinations, patterns, textures, etc. while still keeping it a cohesive body of work (See definition below. It should all look like one artist made it).

Mind the Details – Make sure all edges are finished and clean. Clean off any extraneous materials (glue, etc.).

Tell Us About It – Give complete explanations of your work on the entry forms. Tell about what inspired you, your color decisions, any unusual techniques you used, and anything else that would help jurors interpret your work.

Keep It Simple – Keep your displays simple but effective. Use a velvet pad or colored paper as a background for jewelry, but keep the background neutral. Jurors must be able to access the backs of jewelry, so it is best to not attach it to cards.

Frame It – 2D artwork should be framed. Use frames that are professionally done and enhance the work. The work you submit should be seen as a final presentation.

Reproductions – 2D artists who wish to exhibit reproductions (prints) must submit at least one print with the original as one entry. Reproductions are judged against the original for quality of printing and must be printed on acid-free paper using archival inks. (Items such as note cards and calendars need not be juried.)

It's a Secret – Because the jury session is done anonymously, you must remove or completely cover all identifying marks on your artwork. This includes but is not limited to signatures, initials, business names, and logos. Any submission containing identifying marks will be disqualified.

● **What's Not Accepted**

- Items made from or based on kits or commercial patterns.

- Items made from commercial molds (unless the mold itself was created by the applying craftsman)
- Commercial products or items purchased and decorated (such as T-shirts and purchased unfinished furniture)
- Work made from combining purchased commercial objects unless the commercial objects are minor, functional components of the overall design and craftsmanship
- Dried flowers unless employed as part of an arrangement
- Jewelry that consists only of strung beads that do not incorporate any handmade element
- Classroom or student work.
- Work produced more than two years ago
- Posters
- Digital impressions of appropriated images are not allowed (work that is not the artists' own such as clip-art, downloaded paintings, prints, drawings, etc.)
- Work that appears to be Native American but was not made by a Native American.
Artists submitting Native American work must include a copy of their tribal membership card with their application.

● **Delivery and Pickup**

You may ship your submission to the Guild (116 North Broadway, Berea, KY 40403) or deliver it in person – just as long as your completed application papers and submission are in the office by the set deadline. After the jury session, you may personally pick up your items or have them shipped back to you. Shipped entries will be returned at the artist's expense.

KGAC will not be held responsible for any items broken during shipment. Items that are not hand-delivered will be returned via the applicants' pre-paid choice of carrier. You must provide appropriate and sufficient packing materials, along with specific instructions for packing, if necessary. The shipping cost (plus insurance), instructions regarding insurance, and pre-addressed mailing label(s) must be included with the work when it is delivered to the KGAC office.

KGAC will take the utmost care of your work while it is at the office. KGAC will not be responsible for any loss or damage while the work is in our care. All insurance coverage is the responsibility of the artists.

- **Jury Results**

KGAC Standards Jury Session results will be mailed from the office within two (2) weeks of the session. No results can be given by phone. Your jury results will include a copy of the jurors' checklist comment forms and written comments. Artists whose work does not pass KGAC's Standards Jury process may be referred to the Mentor Program. Mentors are volunteers selected from KGAC's Exhibiting Membership. Mentors can assist the applicant (for a specified amount of time) in understanding how to bring his/her work to the standards required by KGAC.

“Body of Work” Defined

A **body of work** is a group of pieces that belong together and clearly show that the work is from one artist, demonstrating that artist's voice. It refers to a collection or series of artworks that share a common theme, concept, style, or idea, showcasing an artist's consistent exploration and development.

Cohesive Series: A body of work is not just a random collection of pieces; it's a group of artworks that are linked together in some way. It shows **intentional continuity** (not random or unrelated pieces)

Consistent Elements: These artworks might share a similar subject matter, style, technique, or color palette, or they could explore a specific theme or idea in different ways.

Artist's Narrative: A body of work can be seen as a narrative of an artist's journey, showcasing their growth, experimentation, and the evolution of their ideas.

Portfolio and Beyond: While a body of work can be used as a portfolio, it goes beyond simply showcasing what an artist can do; it demonstrates their ability to develop a cohesive and meaningful body of work.

Examples: A series of paintings exploring the human figure, a collection of photographs documenting a specific location, or a group of sculptures that all address a particular concept can all be considered bodies of work.

Importance: Creating a body of work can help artists focus on a specific theme or idea, develop a stronger artistic voice, and build a more cohesive and compelling portfolio.

Again, if you have any questions please contact us at kgacinfo@gmail.com or 859-986-3192.