

Make It With Fiber in Maine

5 Tips for Showing Your Best Work

You can wow the judges and inspire other fiber folks by taking a few simple steps:

Make it harmonious! Make sure you've chosen materials appropriate to the item's design and function. If using more than one yarn, thread, fiber, or fabric, make sure they go well together in terms of color, weight, and texture. Choose embellishments that enhance, rather than overwhelm the design.

Aim for consistent tension and texture. In knitted, crocheted, hooked, sewn, needlepoint, or embroidered items, stitches should be uniform and evenly spaced. Woven items should show warp and weft balance appropriate to the weave structure. Felted pieces should be of even thickness appropriate for their use (scarf vs. wall hanging, for example), with fully integrated fibers. Make sure there are no gaps between stitches or in a woven or felted surface unless called for by the design, and be sure that any changes in yarn, color, etc. don't affect consistency.

Mind your seams. Seams should be inconspicuous, unless meant to be a design feature. They should be neat, firm, and not puckered. In crocheted or knitted garments, seams should allow for some stretch where appropriate.

Make sure your item is not merely complete, but *finished*. Weave in loose ends, make sure edges or selvages are neat. Avoid knots unless they are part of the design. Unless it is a felted item, block or press your piece into proper shape. The back or inside of your item should be as neat as the front.

Make sure your item is clean. If it is a garment that has been worn, be sure to wash it, then pin, block, or press it to its original shape and, if necessary, remove any pills.