

SASKATCHEWAN CRAFT COUNCIL

PAPERMAKING

CRITERIA

DEFINITION

Papermaking is a process by which cellulose fibres from many plant/tree sources (i.e. cotton, linen, reeds, grasses, trees, etc.) are reduced to pure cellulose and can be used to form sheets of handmade paper or three dimensional paper objects. A distinction needs to be made between neutral pH fibres (ie: natural fibres) and highly acidic wood fibres (re-cycled paper, newspaper, bond paper, computer paper, etc.). To maintain the neutral pH level of natural fibres, proper pigments should be used that are compatible to the papermaking process. Paper-pulp would have to be pigmented with the proper coloring factor. Re-cycled pulp will not stand-up over time and will brittle with age and should be identified as such. It is recommended that this not be used or sold for fine art purposes unless treated to museum standards.

A good sheet of paper for watercolor, stationary, printing, calligraphy, etc. should exhibit the following qualities:

1. Even pulp distribution throughout the sheet.
2. Uniform thickness.
3. A smooth surface.
4. A regular shape.
5. It may have deckled edges.
6. Its strength should be adequate for its intended purposes.
7. The paper should be sized to control bleeding.

TECHNIQUES

Paper Sculpture

Wall pieces that are exposed to light sources should be color fast and exhibition pH museum standard and should be strong enough to hold its own form.

Sculpture with Armiture Support

Consideration must be given to materials used for support (i.e. metal rods should not contribute to the deterioration of the piece).

Lamp Shades/Paper Lanterns

These must be made of flame retardant paper.

Earrings

Should be waterproofed for durability with an acrylic sealer. It is suggested that an ultra-violet protectant be used to prevent fading.

Ornaments

Should be made from paper of sufficient strength to endure frequent handling.

Marbled Paper

Due to concerns with longevity, if rag paper is not used it should be labeled as such.

Dying of Paper

Care should be taken to ensure that dyes or colorants used do not alter the pH of the paper sufficiently to render it unusable for fine art purposes.