

## **ArtWorks in Saranac Lake**

6.08.09

### **Statements of Standards, a preliminary exploration**

At our meeting in May, I volunteered to look into a set of standards for our group, to help define what we are about.

Following are some thoughts for discussion:

By no means have I exhausted all possible definitions of “standards” and I am not attempting to define Art, for that is a perspective based on training, perception and personal philosophy. I have looked first to the institutions I have been and am associated with; for I believe these basic philosophies can be applied to most creative endeavors. But you might disagree.

Personally I view a painting or photograph as a handmade work in the same manner as a piece of ceramics, wrought iron or weaving is, for all of them involve making decisions in composition, masterfully manipulating materials, personal vision and a well executed final product. Michelangelo’s “David” come to mind in this regard.

Please review the sampling below, and keep in mind we are not defining Art, only a set of standards.

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“To ensure a high level of quality in the work exhibited in **American Craft Council** shows, each jury is instructed to adhere to these guidelines:

Whether produced in quantity or as one-of-a-kind, the ideal handmade work reflects excellence and the unique vision of its maker; it must be well conceived and skillfully executed, without technical faults.”

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**League of New Hampshire Craftsmen** “accepts and encourages traditional and innovative processes resulting in original work. The work must demonstrate technical skill, consistency and a clearly articulated personal vision. The materials used must be of an extremely high quality and that they be fundamentally transformed, resulting in work which demonstrates technical fluency and integrity of intent and result.”

Aesthetic Considerations:

“The work must demonstrate more than technical proficiency and more than the reproduction of a recognized style. Products should express the personal aesthetic and vision of the maker and demonstrate a coherent stylistic development, with every attention to detail, design, function and finish.”

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Peter Shrope