

Fashion and Gallery Shows – NEWS 2017

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why do you need so much information on the entry form?

A: The entry form is used in multiple ways by several committees, so instead of multiple forms, we have included all the information on one form. The jurying committees and the exhibition committees use the entries for planning purposes. The jurors use the entries for additional information during the jurying process. The exhibition committees use the entries to create the informative labels next to the items in the shows. And finally the entry goes into the traveling library to create a record of your piece and the shows at NEWS 2017. So the more information you provide on your entry, the better the shows will be at NEWS!

Q: Why do I have to include a photo?

A: The photo is used by the committees planning the fashion show or gallery show and to plan the categories for prizes. The photo also becomes a part of the permanent record of NEWS 2017 as part of the traveling library notebooks.

Q: What kind of photo is needed?

A: A simple photo which shows the entire piece. If the piece is a garment it can be on a person, a mannequin or a hanger. If the piece is very different on the front and back (and both front and back should be shown in the exhibit,) please include a photo of both sides, otherwise just a photo of the front of the piece is fine. The photo can be a regular print (3x5 or 4x6), a Polaroid, or a digital photo printed on plain or photographic paper (approx 3x5 or 4x6). Slides are not acceptable.

Q: Why are you asking for digital photos for all entries for both shows?

A: When the NEWS awards are distributed, having digital photos of the entries greatly enhances the awards ceremony. The digital photos are also used to plan the exhibitions. The NEWS Committee has limited time and resources and the only way a slide show is feasible is if entrants submit a digital photo as well as a physical photo.

Q: Why do I have to include a swatch?

A: The swatch helps the jurors see the structure of the weaving especially in pieces where both sides are not visible. The swatches are available at the exhibits so that visitors may touch the fabric and get a sense of how it feels. The swatch also becomes a part of the permanent record of NEWS 2017 as a part of the traveling library notebooks.

Q: I wove a scarf/shawl/blanket and don't have any leftover fabric for a swatch.

A: Please make a photocopy or a scan of your fabric. This helps the committees visualize your piece and understand how you wove it. This copy/scan also becomes a part of the permanent record of NEWS 2017 as a part of the traveling library notebooks. **Please note that actual swatches are strongly urged for 2017 and will be required for 2019. Please plan your projects accordingly**

Q: What are the swatch requirements for 2019?

A: Samples must be between 3" x 3" and 6" x 6". Samples must be finished on all sides, include all of the fabrics in the piece, and be labeled with the entry number. Woven samples are NOT required for split-ply braiding, basketry, or tapestry. Instead, the weaver should submit 6" pieces of all materials used.

Q: My friend did the sewing on my pillow. Do I have to put her name on the entry?

A: Please include everyone who participated in the creation of your entry on your form. There is a section to list the collaborators and the part they played. At NEWS, the piece wins the prize, so it really doesn't matter how many people collaborated on a piece.

Q: I used a leftover warp on a loom in a workshop. Do I need to put that on the entry form?

A: Please include everyone who participated in the creation of your entry on your form (even if you don't have a name, just a pre-warped loom!). There is a section to list the collaborators and the part they played. At NEWS, the piece wins the prize, so it really doesn't matter how many people collaborated on a piece.

Q: I made the piece in a workshop, how do I put that onto the entry form?

A: There is a section on the form to note which workshop and teacher provided the instruction for your piece.

Q: I took a workshop and learned the technique, then went home and made the item using the technique I learned. Do I need to put that on the entry form?

A: Please include that information in the question about the inspiration for the piece. This information is helpful to the NEWS program planners when they are looking for great instructors to invite to NEWS.

Q: Does my item have to be pre-juried?

A: For 2017, the pre-jurying requirement is optional by guild. Please see your guild representatives for the requirements for your guild. Even if there is no pre-jurying requirement, you are urged to submit only your best work. It is important that pieces entered in NEWS be clean and error free. Pieces must be woven since NEWS 2015. For detailed requirements, see the separate Entry Requirements document. The NEWS Committees for both the Gallery and Fashion Shows reserve the right not to submit a piece for judging and/or not to exhibit a piece that is deemed inappropriate.

Q: I wove the fabric for a pillow top, but made the pillow back with commercial fabric. Does this meet the 75% rule?

Yes, because the front or "visible portion" of the pillow is 100% handwoven. However, a 15 square inch pillow made of commercial fabric with a 5 inch square tapestry woven piece stitched onto it would not meet the 75% rule.

Q: I wove the fabric for a vest front, but made the back and lining with commercial fabric. Does this meet the 75% rule?

Yes, because the front or "visible portion" of the vest is 100% handwoven. However, a vest made of commercial fabric with several one inch square tapestry woven pieces stitched onto it would not meet the 75% rule.

Q: What is the entry fee? How can I pay the entry fee?

A: The entry fee is \$10 per item. Payment should be included with your entry forms. When submitting your entry, ask your guild rep which method is appropriate for your guild, cash or check. If paying by check, do not make your check payable to NEWS but to your guild or as directed by your rep. Your guild treasurer will consolidate payments and send one payment to NEWS.

Q: When does my item need to arrive at NEWS?

A: Your guild rep must make arrangements to transport all of the guild's entries to NEWS. Check with your rep for specific details about delivery.

Q: When can I pick my piece up after NEWS?

A: One representative from each guild will be designated to pick up the items from the shows at the end of NEWS. You may make arrangements to pick up your items from that person.

Q: What are the categories for awards?

A: The committees responsible for the Gallery and Fashion shows make the final decisions about categories (e.g. rugs, table linens, scarves, vests) within which awards will be given, based on the range and number of items entered. In addition to the category prizes which award points toward Weaver of Distinction, there are a number of special, sponsored awards. Special awards often have monetary or merchandise prizes. Some awards are made in honor of previous NEWS weavers and are available every year. Others are sponsored by member guilds and specific vendors, and may change from year to year. Some of the special awards in past years have included excellence by first time entrants, best in silk, fine threads, or unusual fibers, best use of color, specific structures, best finishing, etc. You can see what awards were given at past NEWS by going to the website, www.newenglandweaversseminar.com.

Q: Why can't I enter a scarf or a shawl in the Gallery Show? Why can't I enter a bag or accessory in the Fashion Show?

A: Items are restricted to certain shows to even out the work of intake and judging of the two shows. Additionally, it didn't seem fair to allow the same type of items to be judged in two shows. It would be fairer for the items judged best overall to win the awards.