

St. Eligius Arts and Sciences Competition

2023 Entrant Agreement

Thank you for participating in the St. Eligius Arts & Sciences Competition. Your hard work is appreciated by the organizers and entrants alike. Below are some guidelines to consider while judging and/or being judged. Whether you are experienced or new to judging, please consider the guidelines while judging. These guidelines are intended to help provide an enjoyable and encouraging experience for all participants.

Entrant Guidelines

- This is a scored competition which will consist of critical feedback and suggestions for improvement. Please be prepared for constructive criticism and maintain an open mind.
- Entrants are requested to be considerate of the limitations of competitions, judging, and judges in the Society. While we strive to provide a supportive and constructive environment for feedback, there may be feedback that an entrant does not necessarily agree with.
- Please consider the intent of the feedback provided. If a statement seems unfair, it may be a case of poor phrasing with good intention behind it. If that is not the case, bring the concern to the competition organizers to resolve.
- If you have concerns about your feedback or any aspect of the competition, please discuss this with the competition organizers as soon as possible to prevent miscommunication.

Judging Guidelines

- Judges are required to provide their name and contact information to entrants on the score sheet, so that entrants may follow up with questions in the future.
- Please do not write anything on the judging form that you would not want to read as a recipient. Please do your best to respect your entrants' feelings and the hard work they have submitted.
- Please consider both verbal and written documentation during this judging. Work and/or documentation may be incomplete, or a work in progress, and your feedback may assist the entrant in preparing/completing their entry.
- Judges are expected to recuse themselves if they have a conflict of interest with an entrant.
- Please check your perceptions of an individual at the door. The body of work presented should be the only consideration today. Work not present on the table should not be considered.
- While evaluation of the manner in which an entry is displayed is generally not evaluated, comments designed to help artisans polish their displays are welcome.
- Specific, actionable comments can provide direction for continued growth and improvement to competitors of all levels.
- Find, support, and praise the positives. Praise of a single well executed detail can have more impact than an overall compliment.
- Consider using a positive-corrective-positive sandwich when providing potentially negative feedback. This method can create a more receptive environment for growth and education.
- Do not let inexperience discourage you. You do not have to be an expert on a subject to judge it fairly, though familiarity is a plus. Sometimes, you can even learn about an unfamiliar art while judging it.
- Potential questions to inquire of entrants if you're not sure what to say:
 - *What do you want people to learn from your entry?*
 - *What did you learn from your entry?*
 - *What makes you proud about your entry?*
 - *How is your entry historically based?*
 - *Have you made something like this before? If so, how does it differ?*
 - *What would you do differently?*

Since there are a few items on the score sheet that could be hard to interpret, please review the following examples:

- Under Complexity and Workmanship is “Use of finesse in elements of project”. Finesse is not about the flashiness of the project, but the expertise of the skills utilized. The easiest example for me is sewing related, so, a high score for finesse might be precise, even stitches, as opposed to rough, inconsistent stitching. Using metalsmithing as an example, a low score for finesse might be visible, stray, UNINTENTIONAL tool marks marring the surface of the project, while a high score might have a smooth, flawless finish.
- Under Authenticity, “period-appropriate look/feel/sound or CONTEXT of entry” relates to how appropriate the item or research would be for the intended time and location. An example of period-appropriate context in a research entry might involve experimenting with period methods of cleaning wool to compare the results with modern cleansing methods. In that case, the project isn’t the physical object of clean wool, but rather the research and experimentation of period-appropriate actions.
- The Appropriateness & Creativity section is designed to focus on the adaptation of period methods, whether they are used to create a physical object, or are the topic of the research project.
- And Documentation & Presentation makes a connection to a period concept and evaluates the sources used for the project.
- Judges have 5 discretionary points that they may award for any reason. If you are wowed by the entrant’s ingenuity or skill, use the bonus points. Bonus points are discretionary for a reason, they are there as a catch-all for anything that wasn’t included in the score sheet otherwise.