What is Florida Craftsmen?

Florida Craftsmen is a statewide organization for fine craft artists. *Made in Florida 2013*, this year’s Annual Members Exhibition is juried by Mark Lindquist, a woodturner and sculptor who has been at the forefront of the woodturning/sculpting field since the 1960s. Through his skill and technique he brings wood to life, often on a large scale like the artworks on display in the Gadsden Arts Center Lobby. This juried exhibition features fine art crafts made from a variety of materials such as clay, wood, and glass.

Questions for Discussion

1. What do you consider to be the difference between “craft” and “fine craft”?

2. How can you change “craft” objects into “fine craft”?

3. In what kind of store would you mostly find “craft” objects or “fine craft” objects?

4. Which would be considered most useful in your daily life: “craft” or “fine craft”?

5. In your home, do you have more “craft” objects or “fine crafts”?

6. Which would you prefer for a birthday present, a “craft” object or a “fine craft”?

7. Is it possible to change a drawing or picture into a “craft” object? How?

8. Is a paperweight or door holder a “craft” or a “fine craft”? Why? Is it functional or decorative? Is it expressive?

Arts & Crafts or Fine Craft?

Is a craftsperson an artist?

What is a fine craft?

Fine crafts differ greatly from “arts and crafts.” Consider that “arts and crafts” are activities that can be easily duplicated, while fine crafts are individually created pieces of art that do not use the typical materials of traditional art. In the past, objects were only considered art if they were paintings, sculpture, or drawings. Craftspeople or artisans create fine crafts with clay, enamel, fibers, glass, jewelry, wood, and metals; these items may be functional and/or decorative.

Objects that cross the art-craft line often began as basic and necessary items: pottery (containers, cooking), textiles (clothing, bedding) and glass (jewelry, windows). As craftspeople and artists continued to create these items, the designs became more expressive or have additional meanings. Glass, fiber, and wood craftspeople may have once created items only for practical use, but now their work has moved into the field of art because of the skill and creativity the artists put into their work.
Vocabulary

artisan - see craftsperson

craft - the term craft is often used to describe decorative arts that relate to functional objects

craftsperson - a person skilled in a particular art or craft, for example, woodturning, glasswork, or metalwork

decorative - intended to make something more attractive

expressive - conveying thought or feeling

fiber art - a type of fine art that uses fabric, yarn, and natural fibers

fine craft - despite the original, functional nature of crafts, artisans use design and aesthetics to create visually interesting and expressive art

functional - intended for a specific purpose, for example, storage

kiln - an oven used for baking clay

textile - see fiber art

Unscramble Activity

Use the word bank to match the scrambled words below.

1. S T R A
2. A C F T S R
3. S T E M A L
4. T T O P E R Y
5. M I C E R A
6. K N I L
7. W E R Y L J E
8. P S U C L U R E T
9. U N C T F I O N A L
10. O R A T V I E D E C

Use the word bank to match the scrambled words below.

jewelry  ceramic
crafts   kiln
functional pottery
arts     sculpture
decorative metals

Venn Diagram

Use the circles below to identify the differences between fine art and craft. Put objects that are both fine art and craft in the “fine crafts” category in the middle, where the circles overlap.

Jaye Houle, Chasm, 2013, glass and felt