

New England Woodcarvers

Spirit of Wood Show

Category Definitions

AUTOMATA Types of contraptions with moving parts which are typically animated figures.

CANES & WALKING STICKS Ornamental or utilitarian canes and sticks that have a decorated handle and/or shaft.

CARICATURE A humorous exaggeration of distinguishing features.

CHIP CARVING A style of carving in which small chips of material are removed from a surface in a single piece. Patterns are usually geometric.

FRETWORK A style of decorative openwork to create ornamental pieces in which lines intersect or join one another.

HOLIDAY Carvings of holiday folklore, subjects such as Santa, Easter Bunny, Leprechaun, Uncle Sam and other such subjects.

HUMAN FIGURE Features are lifelike and proportional to the form of a human head or body. The style may be humorous or serious, but no exaggerated features are permitted.

IMPRESSIONISTIC/FREE-FORM/STYLIZED Sculptures of subjects that are not realistic, but artistic representations. Art in which designs of forms may be shapeless or without definite form.

INTARSIA A style of decorative or pictorial inlay involving a mosaic of wood pieces with an illusion of depth.

MARQUETRY The art of applying pieces of veneer to a structure to form decorative patterns or pictures.

MYTHICAL Existing only in a myth. A creature or person that is imaginary, fictitious and not based on facts. Subjects can be dragons, wizards, gargoyles and other such subjects.

NAUTICAL Art that portrays or draws its main inspiration from the sea.

REALISTIC Work detailed to the extent of closely resembling the real object.

RELIEF A two dimensional carving which involves more than one carving plane. Low relief is shallow, usually under 1/2" deep. High relief is deep enough to allow forms or shapes to be rounded out.

RELIGIOUS Pertaining to religion. If there is a question if it applies to the Holiday or Religious category, it would most likely be defined as religious.

WOODBURNING (PYROGRAPHY) The art or technique of burning on a wood surface with a heated metallic point.

WOODTURNING The action of shaping wood on a lathe.

NATURAL/STAINED FINISH The grain of the wood must show through the finish. One color staining and/or wood burning is permissible.

PAINTED FINISH An opaque finish that obliterates the grain of the wood. If any part of the carving is painted, it will be placed in a painting category.

TEAM CARVED Pieces which have involvement from multiple people. It could be individual pieces contributed to a diorama or a single piece carved & painted by two individuals.

REALISTIC BIRDS Entries are to be made of wood. Other materials may be used for habitat or structural purposes; however, they are to be hand formed. Glass eyes and metal cast legs are permissible. Pieces will be judged for craftsmanship, accuracy and overall presentation. Entries are typically full size, but don't need to be so. If it qualifies as a miniature, it cannot be entered here.

MINIATURE REALISTIC BIRDS The same criteria for realistic birds apply, however entries must be one half size or less and fit within a 12 inch hoop.

PAINTED SMOOTHIE Entries that are not textured with painted feather details. Groups of feathers can be defined, but no individual feathers can be carved. Fragile areas such as wing tips and tails are allowed, bills can be detailed and eyes can be painted, carved or glass. Only the body of the bird will be judged so legs can be dowels, wires, or cast. All the types of birds listed in the realistic categories are grouped together for judging.

CONTEMPORARY ANTIQUE Entries are to emulate the appearance of an old decoy that shows signs of wear such as being used for hunting. These entries are inspired by old decoys and are the carver's interpretation of an old decoy. Both floating style and stick-up style will be judged together in this category.

HUNTING DECOYS All entries should be made of wood, no foam, cork or canvas allowed. The piece shall be smooth with no texturing and have no fragile areas. Glass eyes and non-wood inserts for long tail feathers, crests, or sturdy wing tips are allowed. Painting should be basic with feathers simply applied brush strokes with no complex blending. Scratch and comb detailing are allowed. Floating style decoys do not need to be weighted and will not be floated, so judging is for appearance only. Stick-up style decoys standing by means of a rod or wires and attached to a base for standing.