

Registrar's Office  
**CRAFT AND ARTISANAL PRODUCTS**  
**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA 2023.2024**

This is a translation of the original French document Exigences des produits métiers d'art, provided for convenience purposes only.



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# CRAFT AND ARTISANAL PRODUCTS ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

## ARTS AND CRAFTS

(From the Act respecting the professional status of artists in the visual arts, arts and crafts and literature, and their contracts with promoters, chapter S-32.01)

An “arts and crafts activity” entails “the production of original works which are unique or in multiple copies, intended for a utilitarian, decorative or expressive purpose and conveyed by the practice of a craft related to the working of wood, leather, textiles, metals, silicates or any other material.”

## PROFESSIONAL ARTISAN

(CMAQ General By-laws)

A professional artisan is an individual with recognized knowledge and skills (mastery of complex techniques and traditional expertise) who uses various materials to design and produce original or traditional products. Some artisans have the knowledge and skills to reconstitute, restore, or rehabilitate crafted products.

## CRAFT AND ARTISANAL PRODUCTS

“Craft and artisanal (arts and crafts) products” mean products made as one-of-a-kind objects or in multiple copies by an artisan who demonstrates mastery of skill, knowledge, and complex traditional or contemporary techniques in their chosen medium. Craft and artisanal products must be distinctly original and produced in a studio located in the artisan’s country of residence.

Terms such as craft art, object, piece, creation, reproduction, restoration, installation, reconstitution, and rehabilitation may also be used to designate craft and artisanal products.

## RECONSTITUTION

“Reconstitution” means all actions or processes performed on a craft or artisanal object, building, or architectural element in order to rebuild it as it was originally.

## RESTORATION

“Restoration” means all actions or processes performed on a craft or artisanal object, building, or architectural element with the aim of replacing missing historical features or components, and/or safeguarding them. Conservation-restoration aims to respect the integrity of cultural heritage, recover its original state, and restore its visual unity.

## REHABILITATION

“Rehabilitation” means all actions or processes performed on a craft or artisanal object, building, or architectural element so that it can be used for a new function or retain its original function.

## REMOVAL AND INSTALLATION

“Installation” and “removal” mean all actions or processes performed on a craft or artisanal object, building, or architectural element to install or remove one or more interior or exterior components, using techniques adapted to the building.





## CHARACTERISTICS OF CRAFT AND ARTISANAL PRODUCTS

There are two main characteristics that define craft and artisanal products: the creative process (design) and the fabrication process (material conversion).

### 1. CREATIVE PROCESS

#### 1.1 Original design

A unique, one-of-a-kind object is one the artisan has crafted with care, based on an original idea. Customizing the production process lets the artisan create signature products that stand out from similar products available on the market.

#### 1.2 Respect for tradition

One of the defining characteristics of the artisan's approach is a deep respect for tradition. Through mastery of traditional techniques and processes, the artisan may make, reproduce, reconstruct, or restore craft and artisanal objects while respecting traditional styles, materials, and fabrication techniques.

Artisans also create contemporary interpretations of traditional objects.

### 2. CRAFT AND ARTISANAL PRODUCTS FABRICATION PROCESS

Making craft and artisanal products entails employing material conversion techniques that are specific to the material and product types.

#### 2.1 Materials

The making of craft and artisanal products has traditionally involved the conversion of materials such as wood, leather, textiles, metals, or silicates. Today's artisans may also incorporate various new or recycled materials, used alone or combined with other materials, to make craft and artisanal products. Unprocessed natural or industrial materials can be used in craft or artisanal products provided they are visually nondominant and do not significantly impact the aesthetics of the products.

#### 2.2 Conversion

The material's conversion must be satisfactory and substantial. In other words, simply preparing, threading, or assembling raw materials to make a product does not constitute a satisfactory and substantial conversion of the material.

#### 2.3 Material conversion techniques

##### 2.3.1 Traditional craftsmanship

Products may be made completely by hand or with the help of hand tools.





### 2.3.2 New technologies

The use of digital design or production tools is permitted provided that the artisan demonstrates mastery of skill and knowledge of the materials, techniques, and tool operations used in the production process.

### 2.3.3 Collaborations

The design and production of craft and artisanal products can be carried out by the artisan alone or in collaboration with others. Employees and subcontractors may contribute to the production of craft and artisanal products, but the prototype (original pattern, model, etc.) must be produced by the artisan.

### 2.3.4 Mastery of the medium

In all cases, the artisan must demonstrate mastery of the techniques in their chosen medium. If a majority of the production steps is carried out by employees or subcontractors, the artisan must directly oversee every stage in the production to ensure quality control.

## 2.4 Functionality

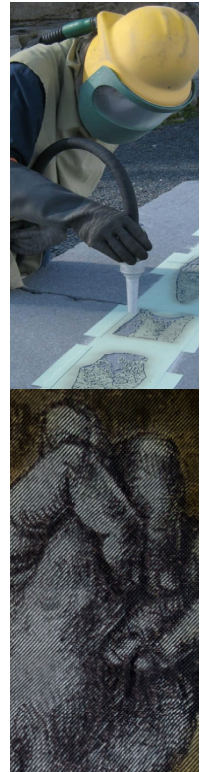
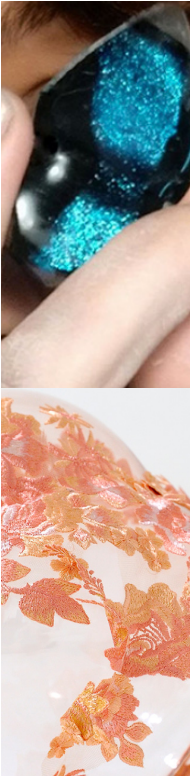
Craft and artisanal products are products that have a utilitarian, decorative, or expressive function. Consumable products, such as soaps, candles, and dried flowers, are not considered craft and artisanal products.

## 2.5 Permanent signature

Craft and artisanal products bear the permanent signature of the artisan or studio.

## 2.6 Originals and series

Craft and artisanal products are original products produced as one-of-a-kind objects or as a limited series, and do not typically involve industrial or mass-production processes.



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