



Jury Guidelines for Members

Why Jury My Work?

The VCPG was founded in 1957 with ten members and at the April 1959 meeting, the first new member was voted in and required to submit three ceramic pieces for critique or jury. The goal of the current VCPG jury process, as outlined in the VCPG Bylaws, is to assure that all work sold or shown at VCPG events holds to that same standard of craftsmanship and aesthetic merit established by our founders.

This document provides you with information and guidance regarding the jury process. Our intention is to support you. The process is designed to be in alignment with our organization's mission and state values:

The Ventura County Potters' Guild is a nonprofit organization committed to stimulating public interest in ceramic arts by providing networking, education and sales opportunities in an inclusive environment for all levels and interests.

Overview:

You must have been successfully juried in order to participate in any of our sales, shows, or most exhibit venues. We ask that you be an active member for 6 months before you participate in a Guild event. The jury is a two-step process that includes the Pre-Jury Workshop and the formal Jury. Details follow.

When can my work be juried?

Jurying takes place during the VCPG General Members' meeting held in April and November starting at 6:00pm; due to COVID restrictions the jurying has been modified to meet current COVID recommendations. To be eligible to have your work juried, you must register and attend a Pre-Jury Workshop in either January or September.

How do I start?

Begin by registering for the Pre-Jury Workshop. Pre-Jury Registration Forms are available via vcpgpottersguild.org/membership and must be completed and returned to the Jury Chairperson no later than the January 7th or September 7th. If you are unable to complete the electronic form available on the website, contact the Jury Chairperson at vcpgjury@gmail.com. When the Jury Chairperson receives your registration form you will receive a confirmation email from vcpgjury@gmail.com. If you do not receive your confirmation email, please check your spam folder; if you do not locate the email contact the Jury Chairperson. It is important to establish this connection with vcpgjury@gmail.com because all communication about the jury will be completed via this email address providing you with information, dates, times and for you to ask questions.

What work is acceptable?

Refer to “Guidelines of Shows and Sales” at vcpgpottersguild.org by using member Login and accessing member documents. If you are unable to access this document, contact the Jury Chairperson at vcpgjury@gmail.com.

What can I expect at the Pre-Jury Workshop?

The workshop is that is a critique to give, both new and experienced potters, feedback from Jurors who understand craftsmanship, aesthetics and personal style — and can clearly talk about these things. You will bring 8 to 10 pieces representing the work that you are interested in selling at the Guild’s events and which has been created in the last two years. In the workshop you will sit down with a Juror at a table and the Juror will pick-up each of your pieces looking at your craftsmanship, aesthetics and personal identity and reviewing the strengths and shortcomings with you. Three separate jurors will sit down with you and these will be the same Jurors that will review your work in the final step of the process. We want this to be an informative experience that helps you to determine what improvements might need to be made before the Jury or if you do not want to participate in the final Jury. You will be provided with the potters’ written comments and recommendations after the Pre-Jury Workshop.

The Jury

Two months after the Pre-Jury Workshop (ie. November, April) you will deliver 8 to 10 pieces to the jury that represent the work that you are interested in selling at Guild events and which has been created in the last two years. These pieces can be the same work you showed at the Pre-Jury Workshop or new work that reflects the jurors’ comments and recommendations from the Pre-Jury Workshop. You will not be present for the review of work.

Note: If your style of work changes significantly in the future, you could be asked to jury the new work.

What criteria are used to evaluate my work?

Along with the information on your Pre-Jury Workshop Registration Form, the jurors will score your work using the scoring system below:

Criteria:

1. Craftsmanship: This criterion encompasses technical mastery and a general control of the materials used. Are the following suitable for the apparent purpose: materials, forming method, function, foot and lip resolution, firing type, properly fired glaze and body, freedom from firing defects? The Craftmanship score is weighted at 60%.
2. Aesthetics: This criterion addresses the concept of beauty. Is the glaze, stain, slip selection, glaze type and color, application, texture, and form integrated in the work and provide impact and vitality? The Aesthetics score is weighted at 30%.
3. Personal Identity: This criterion reflects the degree to which the artist’s personality and integrity come through the work. The jury considers the overall concept and effect, such as form, proportion, balance, interest, tactile pleasantness, variation and originality. The jury assesses whether or not the applicant has explored the medium enough to develop his/her own personal means of expression or is it a derivative of other artists’ work? Personal Identity score is weighted at 10%.

How is the score determined? Using the VCPG Jury Evaluation Rubric.

Criteria	Rating					Pts.
<p>Craftsmanship (Craft) This criterion encompasses technical mastery and a general control of the materials used. The following but not limited to are suitable for the apparent purpose: materials, forming method, function, foot and lip resolution, firing type, properly fired glaze and body, freedom from firing defects.</p>	<p>6 pts Excellent Artist exhibit an excellent crafts in the portfolio</p>	<p>4.8 pts Good Artist exhibit a good rang of craft in the portfolio that meets the Guild's standard.</p>	<p>3.6 pts Inconsistent Artist exhibit an inconsistent craft in the portfolio that some does and doesn't meet the Guild's standards.</p>	<p>2.4 pts Fair Artist exhibit a fair craft in the portfolio that still have room for improvement.</p>	<p>1.2 pts Decline Artist exhibit a poor craft in the portfolio that does not meet Guild's standards.</p>	6pts
<p>Aesthetics This criterion addresses the concept of beauty. Is the glaze, stain, slip selection, glaze type and color, application, texture, and form integrated in the work and provide impact and vitality?</p>	<p>3 pts Excellent Artist exhibit an excellent aesthetics in the portfolio.</p>	<p>2.4 pts Good Artist exhibit a good rang of aesthetics in the portfolio that meets the Guild's standard.</p>	<p>1.8 pts Inconsistent Artist exhibit an inconsistent aesthetics in the portfolio that some does and doesn't meet the Guild's standards.</p>	<p>1.2 pts Fair Artist exhibit a fair aesthetics in the portfolio that still have room for improvement.</p>	<p>0.6 pts Decline Artist exhibit a poor aesthetics in the portfolio that does not meet Guild's standards.</p>	3pts
<p>Personal Identity This criterion reflects the degree to which the artist's personality and integrity come through the work. The portfolio reflects overall concept and effect, such as form, proportion, balance, interest, tactile pleasantness, variation and originality.</p>	<p>1 pts Excellent Artist exhibit an excellent personal identity in the portfolio.</p>	<p>0.8 pts Good Artist exhibit a good personal identity in the portfolio that meets the Guild's standard.</p>	<p>0.6 pts Inconsistent Artist exhibit an inconsistent personal identity in the portfolio that some does and doesn't meet the Guild's standards.</p>	<p>0.4 Fair Artist exhibit a fair personal identity in the portfolio that still have room for improvement.</p>	<p>0.2 pts Decline Artist exhibit a poor personal identity in the portfolio that does not meet Guild's standards.</p>	1pt
Total Points Possible						10

Juried work that receives at least an average of 7 points of the possible 10 points from Jurors will have passed the jury process. If below 7 points, the applicant's work will not have passed.

After the Jurying:

You'll receive a copy of the comments and scores from the jurors in the mail. If you would like to speak to a juror regarding their comments, contact VCPG Jury Chairperson and they will facilitate that connection. The Jury Chairperson will take photos of your juried work for our records and maintain a copy of your registration form and evaluation sheets. The Membership Chairperson will record the date of your jury in the membership spreadsheet so that when you register to sell at a Guild event, the coordinator of that event can contact the Chairperson for your membership and jury status.

Document History Page and Discussion Points

Revision Date	Description of Revision	Revised by
August 2021	<p>Review of document for new Jury Chairperson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Added mission statement ● Overview removed example of when you do not need to be juried and used “or most exhibit venue”. ● “When can my work be juried?” removed the chart with dates. ● “Who to contact?” added vcpgjury@gmail.com for contact and deadline for registration 7th of January or September. ● “Pre-Jury Workshop”, added confirmation email from Chairperson, expanded description of the workshop. ● “How many items...” folded into Pre-Jury WS description. ● “Criteria” did not change but is collected in a rubric format. ● Added that work will be photographed and a file created with documentation of jury. 	B. Burgess, Jenchi Wu, Crystal Davis, Wyn Matthews
February 2019	Developed sections of the document addressing the Pre-Jury Workshop providing a calendar, description of the workshop and contact information.	Crystal Davis, Jury Chairperson, and Brenda Burgess
December 2017	Changed the month of the Fall Pre-Jury Workshop to September and the Jury to November. Removed text that indicated that Jury Application was available on the VCPG webpage. Jury Guidelines for Members 1.2	B. Burgess and reviewed and approved by Jury Chairperson Gayle Swanson
January 2017	<p>Minor wording changes based on revision to version 1.1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “The goal of the current VCPG jury process, as outlined in the VCPG” vs mentioning specific Article/Section ● Jury Registration Forms are available from the VCPG Jury Chair or through venturapottersguild.org. The Jury Chair’s contact information is in the current VCPG Directory, VCPG Board Organization Chart. Update: webpage address and reference to directory for contacting Jury Chair ● After the Jury: contact information revised with reference to director for contacting Jury Chair. 	