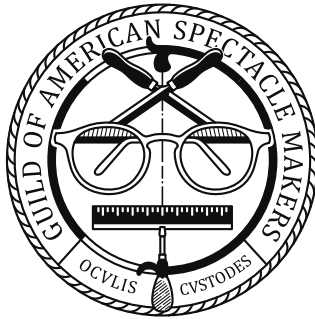


THE GUILD OF AMERICAN SPECTACLE MAKERS

STANDARD FOR
FELLOWSHIP
& MASTERY



ANNO DOMINI MMXXVI

PREAMBLE

Fellowship and Mastery in the Guild of American Spectacle Makers are conferred upon makers whose work demonstrates excellence in the craft. This standard sets forth the criteria by which work is evaluated, and the process by which Fellowship and Mastery are sought and granted.

The Guild welcomes work in every tradition, of every material, by every technique. The standard is to be applied in light of the maker's own intent. The frame must be intended to be worn upon a human face.

CRITERIA

Work is evaluated against four criteria, weighted equally. All four must be satisfied to the standard of excellence per the educated opinion of a panel of judges.

1. FUNCTION AND FITNESS FOR PURPOSE

The frame is worn upon a human face for the correction, protection, filtering, or other modulation of vision, and it performs that purpose competently. It accepts the appropriate optical element and does so in a manner consistent with safe and effective wear. Temples accept a brief hyperextension of no more than three seconds without permanent deformation or destruction. The frame answers, in durability and resilience, to its intended use.

2. QUALITY OF EXECUTION

The frame is competently assembled and finished to a standard befitting excellence. The surface is free of unintended blemishes, the edges and transitions are deliberate, and all details are considered. Where the work is intended to be refined, it is refined; where it is intended to be raw or hand-worked, that quality is achieved with evident control rather than by accident. The contact points upon the face are designed for comfort and stable wear.

3. COHERENCE OF INTENT

The frame evidences a clear intention, and its execution is consistent with that intention. A piece that aims at refined precision must achieve refined precision; a piece that aims at expressive form must achieve expressive form; a piece that aims at fidelity to a tradition must achieve that fidelity. This criterion protects unconventional and culturally-specific work, and equally guards against work whose ambition exceeds its execution. Competency is judged not by the skill required for reproduction, but by whether the piece reflects the maker's stated intentions.

4. RESOLUTION OF CONSTRUCTION

Every spectacle frame is a system of components, and the resolution of those components — visually, mechanically, and in the meeting of materials — is a clear indicator of skill. Joints are well-considered. Materials are brought to coordination by means appropriate to their nature. Where the maker has chosen an unconventional method of assembly, that choice is brought to the same care as any conventional method would demand. There is no prescription for technique; it is only asked whether the techniques chosen have been brought to a clean and considered conclusion.

PROCESS FOR FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship is sought in two stages. The Guild conducts both stages double-blind: the maker's identity is not disclosed to the panel, and the panel's individual identities are not disclosed to the maker. Submissions may be made by mail to Guild headquarters or through the Guild's online portal.

FIRST STAGE: THE BRIEFS

The candidate submits a creative brief and a design brief, together with a review fee of \$50. The Guild provides templates and instructions for both. The creative brief states what the maker intends to make and why; the design brief specifies the materials, dimensions, techniques, and construction by which the intent will be realized.

A panel of judges reviews both briefs and either accepts or rejects the proposal, with written feedback in either case. Acceptance authorizes the candidate to proceed to the second stage; rejection identifies, criterion by criterion, where the proposal falls short, and the candidate may revise and resubmit.

SECOND STAGE: THE FRAME

Upon acceptance of the briefs, the candidate produces the frame as proposed and submits it to the Guild together with a review fee of \$100. Submission transfers title to the Guild and grants the Guild the right to display, photograph, reproduce, and study the frame in perpetuity. The frame is not returned to the maker, barring the total dissolution of the Guild. It will not be sold by the Guild for any reason.

A panel of five judges, drawn from the Fellows and Masters of the Guild, evaluates the frame against the four criteria and against the briefs as accepted. Judges examine fit, comfort, and the experience of wear, attending to the frame's center of gravity, its contact points, the action of its hinges and moving parts, and its proportions in relation to the human face. Where useful, a judge may have a near-fitting individual try the frame to evaluate contact points. Each judge prepares a written evaluation, documenting the basis of approval or disapproval, and casts a single vote.

Advancement to Fellowship requires the affirmative vote of at least four of the five judges.

The candidate is notified of the outcome in writing. Where the submission is declined, the candidate receives a summary of the panel’s findings, prepared so as not to disclose individual identities or votes.

CONFERRAL

Upon favorable review, the candidate is appointed a Fellow of the Guild and issued a formal certificate. Fellowship is a lifetime appointment.

MEMBERSHIP AND RECORDS

Fellows and Masters are listed in the Guild’s public database. Dues of \$5 monthly or \$50 annually paid in advance support the maintenance of the database and publication of the Guild’s bi-monthly newsletter. Certificates may be reissued upon proof of identity and payment of a reissuance fee.

PROCESS FOR MASTERY

Mastery inverts the first stage of the Fellowship process: the Guild proposes the work, and the candidate executes it. To submit for review, a fee of \$100 is paid.

The Guild’s panel of judges supplies the candidate with both the creative brief and the design brief, and any rare or exotic materials the briefs require. The candidate produces the frame to the briefs and submits it under the same standard of excellence. The frame becomes the property of the Guild upon submission, on the same terms as a Fellowship submission.

Evaluation follows the Fellowship process: an affirmative vote of at least four of five judges confers Mastery. Mastery is a lifetime appointment.

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