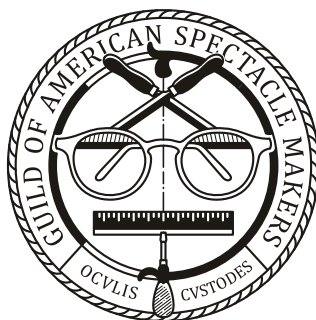


THE GUILD OF AMERICAN SPECTACLE MAKERS

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 applied in light of the maker's own intent. The frame must be intended to be worn upon a human face.

Fellowship and Mastery are designations for makers. The candidate is the person who made the frame. The Guild does not, at present, certify design alone.

Fellowship and Mastery attest to the skill of the maker. They do not certify any frame to a regulatory or industry safety standard.

CRITERIA

Work is evaluated against four criteria. A judge votes to approve only if, in that judge's educated opinion, the frame satisfies all four criteria to the standard of excellence. Each judge may use their own method to reach that opinion.

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. Where the design calls for an optical element, the frame accepts and retains it securely. Where temples are present, they accept a gentle hyperextension, such as occurs in ordinary wear, without permanent deformation or damage. Where temples are not present, the judges apply a comparable flexure suited to the form. 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.

CONDITIONS OF SUBMISSION

ELIGIBILITY. The candidate is an individual who resides in North, Central, or South America. A firm or workshop cannot be a candidate.

MATERIALS. The Guild considers only frames made of materials that are legal to import into, and to possess in, the United States. The candidate is responsible for compliance with all laws that apply to the shipment, and for all duties and customs charges.

AUTHORSHIP. The candidate is the maker of the frame. The candidate claims the design of the frame, and the right to distribute it, as their own, and performs the majority of its fabrication with their own hands. Another party may perform a limited operation, such as casting a component, shooting temple cores, or rough milling a blank. The candidate may purchase standard components, such as hinges, screws, rivets, and lenses. An employee, assistant, or contractor of the candidate is another party. A frame that the candidate designed and another party made does not qualify.

In the design brief, the candidate states accurately which operations they perform, which operations other parties perform, and which components they purchase. The statement must show that the majority of the fabrication is the candidate's own. The panel judges the majority by the labor and skill that the operations demand, not by the number of operations or components. The candidate also signs an attestation that the statement is true. The Registrar holds the attestation; the panel does not see it.

ANONYMITY OF THE FRAME. The submitted frame bears no name, logo, brand, or maker's mark.

OPTICAL ELEMENT. Where the design calls for an optical element, the frame

is submitted glazed. A design that modulates vision without a lens, such as a slit aperture, needs none. A bespoke frame may be glazed to the wearer's prescription where the glazing is part of the achievement. The Guild requests no information about any wearer. The candidate alone is responsible for any wearer information they disclose.

PROCESS FOR FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship is sought in two stages. Both stages are double-blind: the panel does not know the candidate's identity, and the candidate does not know the judges' identities. Submissions may be made by mail to Guild headquarters or through the Guild's online portal.

The portal assigns each submission a number and removes metadata from submitted files. The Guild appoints a Registrar, who takes no other part in Guild activities. The Registrar receives mailed submissions, removes all information that identifies the sender, and labels each submission with its number before the panel receives it.

A judge withdraws from a panel if the judge is the candidate, believes they have identified the candidate, or has a conflict of interest. The Guild appoints a replacement. If fewer than five judges are available, the panel sits with those available, but with no fewer than four, and approval requires the vote of every judge.

FIRST STAGE: THE BRIEFS

The candidate submits a creative brief and a design brief, with a review fee of \$50. The fee is due with each submission and resubmission, and is not refundable. The Guild provides forms and instructions for both briefs. The creative brief states what the candidate intends to make and why. The design brief specifies the materials, dimensions, and construction by which the intent will be realized, and states the authorship of the work. The candidate does not need to disclose technique.

A panel of five judges reviews the briefs. The panel accepts the proposal, by the vote of at least four judges, if it meets four conditions:

1. The briefs are specific enough that a finished frame can be judged against them.
2. The proposed frame is feasible.
3. The scope of the proposed work is sufficient that its faithful execution would demonstrate excellence under the four criteria.
4. The authorship statement shows that the candidate performs the majority of the fabrication.

The panel gives its decision in writing within sixty days. A rejection states which conditions the proposal did not meet, and the candidate may revise and resubmit.

An acceptance authorizes the candidate to proceed to the second stage, and remains valid for two years. Acceptance settles the adequacy of the proposal: the second-stage panel judges the frame against the accepted briefs, and does not reconsider whether the proposal was sufficient.

SECOND STAGE: THE FRAME

The candidate produces the frame as proposed and submits it with a review fee of \$100, the signed authorship attestation, and the signed submission agreement.

DEVIATIONS. The candidate submits a written statement of every material difference between the frame and the accepted briefs, with the reason for each. Each judge weighs the disclosed deviations as part of their vote, and decides whether the frame is still the frame that the briefs describe. A change in who performed an operation is a material difference. The panel declines a frame if, as made, the majority of its fabrication is no longer the candidate's own. A material deviation that the candidate did not disclose is sufficient ground to decline the submission.

BESPOKE WORK. The Guild does not return a frame upon which Fellowship is conferred. A candidate who makes a frame for a particular wearer therefore makes a second piece for that wearer. Engraving and other personalization on the wearer's piece are not deviations, and in those respects the wearer's piece does not need to match the submitted frame or the briefs.

TITLE. Title to the frame passes to the Guild when Fellowship is conferred. The candidate warrants that they have the right to transfer it. The Guild may display, photograph, and study the frame, and may reproduce images of it, in perpetuity. The Guild does not reproduce the physical frame, and does not transfer any right in the frame or its design to another party. Design rights remain with the maker. The Guild does not sell the frame for any reason. The Guild does not return the frame unless the Guild is dissolved, in which case the frame is returned to the maker.

DECLINED FRAMES. If the submission is declined, the Guild returns the frame at the candidate's expense. The Guild may dispose of a frame that the candidate does not reclaim within ninety days of notice.

RISK AND DAMAGE. The candidate bears the risk of loss or damage in transit to and from the Guild, and is advised to insure the shipment. The Guild takes reasonable care of frames in its custody. Evaluation includes handling, wear, and the flexure test of Criterion 1, and these can damage a frame. The Guild is not liable for damage that results from evaluation. The candidate accepts these terms in the submission agreement.

EVALUATION. 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 that documents 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.

OUTCOME. The candidate is notified of the outcome in writing within sixty days. 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. A declined candidate may submit a corrected or new frame under the same accepted briefs while the acceptance remains valid, with a new review fee. A declined candidate may also request reconsideration, in writing and within thirty days of notice, only on the ground of an error of procedure. The panel's judgment of quality is final.

CONFERRAL

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

A Fellow or Master may state their designation in full. The designation describes the maker, not any product. A Fellow or Master does not use the Guild's name or seal to state or imply that a frame is certified.

The Guild may revoke Fellowship or Mastery only if the member made a false statement in the briefs or in the authorship attestation, or submitted work that was not their own. Revocation requires the vote of at least four of five judges, after the member has had the opportunity to answer in writing.

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. A lapse in dues suspends the member's listing and newsletter. It does not affect the appointment. 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. Only a Fellow may seek Mastery.

MASTERY BRIEFS. Judges write Mastery briefs. Each consists of a creative brief and a design brief. A brief enters the Guild's archive only with the approval of every judge, and is published there without the name of its author. Fellows read the

archive through the Guild's online portal.

CLAIM. A Fellow claims one brief at a time. A claimed brief is closed to other Fellows. The claim lapses after one year, or when the submission is declined, and the brief then returns to the archive. A judge does not claim a brief that they wrote. When Mastery is conferred, the brief is retired permanently and is recorded with the name of the Master who fulfilled it.

MATERIALS. The Guild supplies the materials that are unique or specific to the brief, and the brief states their replacement value. The candidate supplies all other materials. Supplied materials remain the property of the Guild. If Mastery is not conferred, the candidate returns the supplied materials undamaged, or pays the stated value of any material not so returned.

SUBMISSION. The candidate produces the frame to the briefs and submits it with a review fee of \$100, under the same conditions of submission and the same standard of excellence as a Fellowship frame. The design is the Guild's, so the candidate claims only the fabrication, and the requirement of majority fabrication applies. The candidate submits an authorship statement with the frame, in place of the Authorship section of the design brief. The briefs govern the work as written. The candidate reports every departure in the statement of deviations, and the panel decides whether a departure forfeits the submission.

EVALUATION. Evaluation follows the second stage of the Fellowship process. The panel is drawn from the Fellows and Masters of the Guild. The affirmative vote of at least four of five judges confers Mastery. Title to the frame passes to the Guild upon conferral, on the same terms as a Fellowship frame. Mastery is a lifetime appointment.

FOUNDING PROVISION

The five founding members of the Guild seek Fellowship under this standard, and form its first panel of judges. Each founding member submits briefs and a frame. The other four founding members evaluate them, and conferral requires the vote of all four. The founding evaluations are not blind. The Guild keeps the written evaluations on record. A founding member who is declined may resubmit under this provision. This provision expires when the last founding submission is decided, and no later than 31 December 2027.

VERSION

This is version 1.0 of the standard, effective [effective date]. A Fellowship candidate is governed by the version in effect on the date their briefs were accepted. A Mastery candidate is governed by the version in effect on the date of their claim.