



Embroiderers' Association of Canada, Inc.
Association canadienne de broderie, Inc.

Original Design Award Policy and Procedures

Introduced in 2004, the Original Design Award is an annual judged award presented each year at the seminar of the Embroiderers' Association of Canada, Inc./Association canadienne de broderie, Inc.(EAC/ACB).

Any material or technique is acceptable, where the majority of the work was done with a threaded needle, either by hand or by machine.

Purpose

The purpose of the award is to:

- encourage the self-exploration and growth of the individual embroiderer.
- promote the development of embroidery into an art form in Canada.
- provide recognition to those individuals who have used the creative process effectively in the development of an original piece of needlework.
- provide a goal for aspiring needlework artists.
- provide an opportunity for recipients of this award to aspire to future achievements and recognition.

Definitions

Original:

An original piece is a composition created in its entirety by the needle artist. In all cases, the creative process must have been followed and documented.

Entry:

A finished embroidery piece and associated documentation materials that describe and outline the design process used to create the embroidery.

Professional:

Anyone who engages in needlework as a teacher, artist, designer, lecturer, author or stitcher of commissioned work and who has received remuneration or taught under a contract.

Non-professional:

Anyone who, previously or at the time of entry submission, engages in needlework as a pastime and for pleasure rather than for financial gain.

Entry Requirements

The finished embroidery must be accompanied by documentation showing the process used to create the embroidery. This documentation is judged along with the embroidery piece.

The work must be executed and completed within the last three years. It should be finished, mounted, or framed.

Anonymity must be maintained on all materials other than the artist's statement and artist's biography which should be on separate pieces of paper that will be displayed after the judging is completed. The embroidery piece and documentation must have any identifying information removed or covered.

The documentation can be exhibited in a notebook, a binder, a sketchbook and/or a design board and must include the following:

- design source or source of inspiration.
- a thread study showing the final colour choices, using chosen threads.
- a drawing of the overall design.
- a photocopy or picture or sample of a stitched portion of the reverse side of the embroidery. This is not necessary if the reverse side of the embroidery is accessible.
- the rationale for the chosen techniques including colour, thread and stitch choices, embellishments and finishing techniques used.
- an approximate account of the time and cost of the project.
- an artist's statement on a separate page and easily removed from the documentation for judging. This statement will be displayed after the judging is completed..
- a biography on a separate page that will be displayed after the judging is completed.

Suggested additions that might be included:

- sketches, drawings, collages and/or paper mock ups.
- a gray scale of the design and examples of colour schemes considered; include reasons for rejected colour schemes.
- samples of various stitch and fabric options considered; the various threads, colours and textures considered.
- samples of embellishing and finishing techniques explored, e.g., beading, tassels, closures, linings and backing fabrics.

Judging

- Each entry will be judged on its own merit.
- Providing the entry meets the minimum judging criteria of 70%, the entry will be awarded a certificate.

- The EAC/ACB Education Director will coordinate the judging of the entries.
- The judges will follow set criteria for this award. Judging criteria is available for all entrants with the ODA Information Package.
- A written summary of judging remarks will be sent to all entrants after Seminar.

Exhibition

- Entries, including the documentation materials, will be displayed in the Members Exhibition at the seminar.
- Entrants must complete a *Member's Exhibition Entry Form* available through the seminar website.
- Biographies and artist's statements will be displayed by each entrant's work.

Award

Judged in two categories: Professional and Non-professional.

- All entries that meet or exceed a score of 70% will be awarded a certificate.
- For each category, a pin will be awarded to the entry with the highest score.
- The certificate and/or pin will not be awarded if the entrance requirements or standards have not been met.
- Category winners will not be allowed to compete for a period of two years following their win (e.g., winners in 2024 may enter again in 2027).

Application

The Original Design Award Application package - Application Form, Instructions for Submission, Application Guidelines, and Judging Criteria - can be obtained from the EAC/ACB website: eac-acb.ca/awards-grants. They can also be obtained from the Education Director by emailing education@eac-acb.ca.

The deadline for submission of the application entry form to the EAC/ACB Education Director is April 1 of each year.

In addition to the ODA Application Form, entrants must also complete a *Member's Exhibition Entry Form* available through the seminar website.

All application requirements must be followed as detailed in the Application Guidelines.

Anonymity must be maintained on all materials but outside packaging should be clearly labeled with the name of the entrant.

Entries not in the hands of the Education Director by noon, the day prior to Registration will not be included in the judging process.

Roles and Responsibilities

- The current Seminar Committee will confirm the address for mailing of entries. This should occur in time for inclusion in the publication of the seminar brochure and be clearly posted on both the Seminar Website and the EAC/ACB Website..
- EAC/ACB Education Director to receive the completed application forms by April 1 of each year.
- EAC/ACB Education Director to advise the Seminar Committee of the number of entries for the Members' Exhibit by April 20.
- The entrant is responsible for ensuring their entry meets the deadlines for submission and is also responsible for all costs associated with the delivery and return of the entry.
- While all due care will be taken with entered pieces, EAC/ACB assumes no responsibility for lost or damaged items. It is recommended all shipments are insured by the entrant.
- EAC/ACB Education Director will provide a copy of the judging criteria to the selected members of the judging team. The judging criteria is included in the Application Guidelines package.
- The EAC/ACB Education Director is to retain the original judging criteria for each entry and supply a summary of remarks to each entrant after the seminar.
- The EAC/ACB Education Director will gather the judging sheets from the judges along with the names of the category winners.
- The EAC/ACB Education Director will provide the names of the category winners to the EAC/ACB President and EAC/ACB Secretary upon completion of the judging.
- The EAC/ACB Education Director will provide each entrant with a summary of the judges scores and comments within six weeks of the close of seminar.
- Arrangement will be made by the EAC/ACB Communications Team for photographs and names of the winning entries to be delivered to the Editor, Embroidery Canada for publication.
- The EAC/ACB President shall present the Certificates and Pins at the EAC/ACB Luncheon at the seminar.

Seminar Committee

- The Seminar Committee will provide the address for mailing entries to the seminar.
- The Seminar Committee will provide sufficient space in the Members' Exhibition for the number of entries. Each entrant will require approximately half a display table for their story board and supporting materials.
- The Seminar Committee will ensure the entries are delivered by 8am to the room designated for the EAC/ACB Education Committee meeting for judging.

- Upon completion of the judging process, the EAC/ACB Education Director will notify the Seminar Committee so that they can move the submission(s) to the Members' Exhibition. The Seminar Committee is responsible for creating the appropriate tags for the display.

Judges

- Decisions of the judges are final and are based upon the judging criteria provided.
- Judging will occur at a time prior to the start of the seminar as designated by the EAC/ACB Education Director. This is typically scheduled to occur after the Education Team meeting has concluded.
- Judges will return the judging sheets to the EAC/ACB Education Director.

Development

The work of an Ad-Hoc Subcommittee of EAC/ACB Seminar 2004 (Victoria) is acknowledged in the development of this award: Hannah Bradley, Barbara Gilbert, Cynthia Keck and Ann Rogers.

Related Documents

The following documents support this Policy:

ODA Application and Guidelines 2025-02 - form to be completed by the member wishing to submit an entry. It includes a checklist of information they need to be aware of and how to submit their entry.

ODA Judging Criteria.docx - available on the website for the member to review.

Judging Criteria ODA Template - May 2024 - identical document to *ODA Judging Criteria.docx* but formatted to be used by the judges in the adjudication process and is only used by the Education committee.

Original Design Reference 2025-02 - intended to be a stand alone reference document for use by the member if they need some guidelines on the steps to take in documenting the design process.

ODA Creative Process.pdf - document on the creative process from *Embroidery Canada* - June 2003.