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

Judging Criteria Original Design Award

Each entry will be adjudicated on its own merit. Certificates will be awarded to all entries with a minimum score of 70%.
The judges will use the following guidelines when examining your entry. Having an awareness of the elements and the specific criteria can assist you in your own self-evaluation of your embroidery piece.

Impact (5%)

Overall, do the elements and principles of design work together to produce an exciting piece, something that has a wow factor?

- Elements: line, shape, form colour, texture, space, value
- Principles: pattern, contrast, emphasis, balance, proportion, harmony, rhythm

Design (20%)

- Is there a focal point?
- Is there a balance between positive and negative space?
- Does the design bring a fresh approach?
- Is there an appropriate use of proportion?
- Are the motifs placed in a way that looks balanced?
- Does it seem like the elements are arranged in a definite plan?
- Is there good use of variety that adds interest to the piece without being overwhelming?
- Is there an arrangement of parts that produces an overall harmonious design or effect (unity)?

Colour (20%)

- Does the stitcher understand the basic rules of colour theory and apply them in a pleasing way?
- Do the colours enhance each other?
- If achromatic or monochrome, does this enhance the work?

Technique (15%)

- Are the surface stitches executed in a skillful manner?
- Where appropriate, is counting accurate?
- Where appropriate, is cutting close and accurate?
- Are curves and circles smoothly stitched?
- Have all design lines been covered?
- Are the techniques used in harmony with the fabric and design?
- Has the exhibitor used inventiveness in the use of stitches?
- Has the exhibitor chosen challenging stitches?
- Have threads been started and ended appropriately with no visible carry-overs on the back?
- Are threads the right length to prevent overwearing?

Suitability of materials (15%)

- Are the threads and stitches suitable for one another and for the design?
- Is the ground fabric the right count, weave, weight, etc. for the chosen design?
- Are the materials of high quality?
- Are the thread dyes consistent?

Supporting Materials (15%)

- Does the documentation effectively summarize the design process?
- Has the entrant supplied all the documents required for this category?
- Has the entrant written an artist statement that conveys the inspiration and thought processes for design development?

Finishing and Mounting (10%)

- Is the piece in pristine condition?
- Has the piece been properly pressed?
- Is the fabric grain correctly aligned?
- Is there puckering due to lack of blocking or poor lacing?
- Where visible, are the corners consistently formed?
- Does the framing detract from the piece? (Piece may or may not be framed)