

THE SOMERSET GUILD OF CRAFTSMEN



We welcome applications from both traditional and innovative makers whose work is of the highest standard. Please read the notes below before completing the attached Application Form.

ABOUT THE GUILD

The Guild is an association of professional craftspeople who earn or, if just starting their professional career, intend to earn, a substantial part of their income by their craft. The Guild is a not-for-profit organisation whose objectives are as follows:

- To foster, develop and promote the highest standards of design and craftsmanship carried out by craftsmen in Somerset and adjoining counties.
- To encourage new and young craftsmen.
- To advance education in all crafts.
- To hold regular public exhibitions, seminars, workshops, lectures and demonstrations of craftsmanship
- To provide up-to-date information resources on crafts and designer-makers

The Guild has a permanent Gallery in Somerton which is professionally staffed and open all year round. The Guild is also committed to at least two outside exhibitions per year. Members are expected to help with setting up and stewarding these exhibitions and to contribute to the running and maintenance of the Gallery wherever possible.

ABOUT MEMBERSHIP

There are two grades of membership, Craft and Associate.

FULL CRAFT MEMBERSHIP is open to craftsmen and women whose quality of work and design satisfies a Guild Selection Panel. If you fulfil most of the following criteria you may wish to consider applying for Full Craft Membership:

- You earn your living either partly or wholly by your craft.
- Your work demonstrates high standards of creativity, innovation and finish.
- You keep a digital / photographic record of your work.
- You have a portfolio suitable for presentation to the Selection Panel.
- You currently exhibit and sell your work on a regular basis.

If your answers are mainly 'No' and you decide that you are not yet ready to apply for Full Membership, you may like to consider an ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP. Associate Members do not have to be accepted by selection and are not entitled to exhibit regularly in the Courthouse Gallery. However, their work may be offered for inclusion in any Associates Exhibition and at some outside Exhibitions. Associate Members have full voting rights and receive all Newsletters and other membership material. Others who are not makers are also invited to become Associate Members of the Guild or to join the Friends of the Courthouse Gallery.

RANGE OF CRAFTS ENCOMPASSED BY THE GUILD

The Guild considers that some crafts are unsuitable for inclusion within the present organisation. For example, artists, picture framers or restorers of any kind are not accepted for membership. However those working in the area of 'heavy' crafts such as stonemasons and blacksmiths are welcome to apply.

FEES

Craft Members: £80 annually **Associate Members: £25 annually** **Selection Panel: £25 (non refundable)**

Subscriptions paid before 1 April are entitled to 10% discount. Members are invited to pay their first year's subscription by cheque, thereafter by Bankers Order.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION

Please complete the appropriate sections of the Application Form and send to the Membership Secretary c/o The Courthouse Gallery together with fee, a CV and Maker's Statement, and a few good quality photo prints which show the range of your work. These will be sent back to you if you so wish.

Selection Panels take place approximately four times a year. Applicants for craft membership will be asked to deliver four or five pieces of work to the Courthouse Gallery in Somerton for the Panel to examine. Applicants are not required to be present in person.