

# Needlework: Freeform and Miscellaneous

## Category Rules

The category includes techniques such as couching, trapunto, appliqué, smocking, and quilting. If hand-woven fabric or hand-spun yarn is used, it does not have to be done by the entrant and no extra point consideration will be given if it has been. Additionally, SCA heraldic devices will be considered "period" if that specific type of heraldry was used in the period of the entry.

The cost and lack of availability of some materials (such as gold, pearls, coral, etc.) should be considered in judging of entries. **The judges should not penalize the Methods & Materials score if reasonable substitutions were made and justified in the documentation.**

## Research and Documentation (Score: 0-4 points)

- 0 No documentation provided with entry. Face-to-face judging adds very little information.
- 1 Minimal information is provided for time, place and style. Face-to-face judging adds some background information.
- 2 As in #1, generalized sources are given with no emphasis on primary and/or scholarly resources. In face-to-face judging, no further understanding of the resources is evident. Materials and methods of construction of the entry are described.
- 3 As in #2, there is a good balance of resources: primary and/or scholarly sources well supported by other resources. Documentation and/or face-to-face judging provides well developed discussion of research. Materials and methods of construction are described and the reasons for the choices made are discussed.
- 4 As in #3, in-depth and extensive documentation provides a good balance of resources, emphasizing primary (if available) and/or scholarly resources backed up with a significant selection of other resources. Documentation and/or face-to-face judging provide a good explanation of original research and experimentation related to the research. Face-to-face judging indicates a keen grasp of the research and the entrant can discuss it easily with active engagement. Appendices included in documentation (if any) help provide further pertinent information to subject and time period.

## Materials and Methods (Score: 0-4 points)

- 0 Entry is completely modern with no relationship to period elements or practices.
- 1 Use of modern materials and methods to produce a work that would not be accepted in period but either bears some relationship to an authentic work or which might be useful within SCA culture. Entry is inconsistent to period, location, and persona.
- 2 Use of **both** modern materials and methods to produce a work that looks or feels authentic to the time period, location, culture, and economic class for which it was constructed.
- 3 Use of **either** modern materials **or** methods to produce a work that looks or feels

authentic to the relevant time period, location, culture, and economic class.

- 4 Use of materials and methods entirely documentable to the period for which it was constructed (ex. hand-woven fabric of natural fibers dyed with authentic materials, hand sewn) or the use of modern materials in a way that does not detract from the appearance and feels appropriate to the relevant persona. Substitutions of modern fabrics and embellishment materials for those no longer readily available will not be penalized so long as an effort has been made to substitute materials with a close appearance and drape to the original.

**Scope** (Score: 0-6 points for each bullet item)

Rank the **ambition**, not the success, of the entry for each of the following elements.

- Motif Complexity (single repeating element vs. more varied components like geometric patterns, floral patterns, or human and animal figures).
- Design (scale, complexity, combination of motifs, appropriateness to period and place).
- Difficulty of materials chosen.
- Difficulty of stitches and techniques.
- Size and density of stitches.
- Extent gone to ensure authenticity of technique and materials.

**Skill** (Score: 0-6 points for each bullet item)

Rank the **success** of the entry for each of the following elements.

- Stitches and techniques.
- Accuracy in design realization.
- Neatness (especially in starts and ends).
- Tension.

*Optional*

- Finishing of piece (hemming, appliqué, etc.)

**Ingenuity** (Score: 0-4 points)

Judge the ingenuity of the entry. Was the entrant resourceful and inventive in the approach to creating their entry? Does the entry reflect the entrant's vision of period context? Is original thought, contemplation, interpretation, and vision evident according to the entrant's period?

**Judge's Observation** (Score: 0-6 points)

Rank the entry as a whole. How well do all the separately judged parts fit together? The entry's overall effect is judged in this section. This is the only section of the criteria where the judges may allow their personality, private opinions, and personal preferences to influence scoring.