

EXHIBITING: A LIST OF THINGS TO CONSIDER

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As published in the June 2025 issue of *Creative Fibre* magazine

There is a lot to think about before you embark on creating a piece for an exhibition. I hope these points will be useful for your next exhibition entry.

■ TAKE TIME TO THINK ABOUT THE DESIGN OF YOUR PIECE BEFORE YOU LAUNCH INTO THE MAKING

It's not always a good idea to be creating under pressure. Some people work well this way but beware of taking shortcuts in order to be finished on time; the piece could show this haste.

■ READ THE EXHIBITION CRITERIA VERY CAREFULLY

You are selling yourself short when your piece is not selected for an exhibition because it does not fit the criteria. Save a piece for an exhibition that it is eligible for, rather than hoping a selector will include it anyway. Chances are it will be rejected immediately regardless of how wonderful it is.

■ EXHIBIT YOUR VERY BEST NEW WORK

Do yourself proud, feel passionate about your piece. If you are not happy with it, resist putting it forward because you don't have the time to make something better, or have anything else to enter.

■ CHOOSE THE CORRECT MATERIALS TO ENSURE YOUR PIECE IS FIT FOR PURPOSE

Choose wisely; the best materials give the best results.

■ THINK ABOUT FINISHING, THIS IS A VITAL STAGE

Check your piece in the best possible light and go over it carefully, looking for anything that is out of place. Pick off any bits, dust it, even vacuum it. Think to yourself 'I'm not hiding anything am I?' A selector is usually an experienced craftsperson and has an eye for noticing anything untoward. Some things to consider:

1. Do both ends of a scarf look the same?
2. Are the fronts of a jacket the same length?
3. Are the handles on a bag attached well, do they look part of it or something stuck on later?
4. Are the seams straight?
5. Are there any thin places in the felt that are not supposed to be there?
6. Is a felted fabric under felted?
7. Are there lumps and bumps where there shouldn't be any?
8. Are ends secured correctly and hidden appropriately (on both sides of a piece)?
9. Are garment fastenings appropriate and positioned in the best place?
10. Are embellishments attached securely and positioned appropriately for the function of a piece?

■ BE ORIGINAL

Beware of copying someone else's work, even from a book. Most things will have been seen somewhere before; that is just the nature of the beast. Try to change the original idea enough that it cannot be identified as belonging to someone else, make it your own. Just changing the colour doesn't make your piece original. When using a pattern you must specify it and acknowledge the designer. If making a garment using a commercial dressmaker's pattern, name the brand and number of the pattern. Did someone else do the dressmaking? They also need to be acknowledged.

■ GIVE YOUR EXHIBITION PIECE A TITLE

This gives your entry importance; it takes it up a notch. Be creative with your title. 'Untitled I' is not nearly as exciting as 'Moon Shadow Serenade' or 'Klearly Klunky'. Remember, the selector is looking at the whole package. An exhibited piece is a reflection of your creativity so let that shine through.