

Congress 2012 – Rules of Competition

This competition is open to dues-paying members of the Affiliated Wood Carvers, Ltd. Organization. No one is restricted from joining. Dues are \$15 (USA) and \$20 (Foreign) per year and run from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31.

1. Blue Ribbon winning entries in the Congress are not eligible to be entered at the Congress in future years.
2. The following items will not be accepted into the International Woodcarvers Congress: intarsia, marquetry and scroll-sawed works. Entries must be carved from wood. Items not allowed are: ivory, bone, antler, horn, tagua nuts, etc.
3. There is no limit on the number of entries that you may enter into one specific class except for **Group P** – Instructor Assisted, **Group Q** – Carving from a Rough Out, and **Group S** – Instructor Assisted Pyrography in which **one entry per class within each group will be allowed**.
4. Entries shall be the work of the entrant. Each entry must be tagged as to which class it is entered.
5. Exhibits must be carved and completed by the exhibitor within the past three (3) years of the show entry date - June 12, 2011.
6. Show officials and/or judges may change an exhibit to a class that they deem more appropriate and may withdraw any objectionable carvings.
7. Show officials and/or judges may disqualify any entry which is recognized as coming from a duplicated blank or that was produced in a seminar or during a class. Instructor Assisted and Rough Out classes are an exception. Originality is stressed in this competition. Please let your consciences honor that commitment.
8. In order to maintain a certain standard for the show, subject matter, which may be classed as “erotic”, will not be permitted.
9. The judges’ determinations are final and are not subject to any change after the competition is completed. Judging is closed.
10. All exhibits, when properly classified, will be judged in that classification regardless of the number of exhibits entered. However, ribbons will be awarded only to those carvings exemplary of judging standards listed following these rules. In other words, if there is just one entry in a class, it won’t necessarily get a blue ribbon unless it deserves one..
11. Any carving pertaining to “Santa” or Mrs. Claus falls under Class 206, 929, 930, 943, 949 or 952.
12. Affiliated Wood Carvers and the Jackson County Fairgrounds cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage due to conditions beyond their control.
13. Rules for finishing carvings:
 - **Natural/Stained Finish** – both the texture and the grain of the wood must show through the finish. One color staining and/or wood burning is permissible.
 - **Painted Finish** – an opaque finish that obliterates the grain of the wood or the use of more than one color or tone of stain. If any part of the carving is painted, the carving will be placed in the “painted” category.
14. Use of power tools for carving is permissible except for Whittled Pieces, Group C, Class 301 – these must be done entirely with a knife – no gouges, chisels, v-tools or sanding is allowed. Work from duplicating equipment will not be accepted.
15. **Entry Forms** for carvings that are going to be shipped by mail or UPS should reach us by June 1, 2012, so there is time to process them. Shipped-in exhibits will be accepted between May 10 and June 8, 2012. Carry-in exhibits must be at the Jackson County Fairgrounds show site by 4:00 p.m. on June 10, 2012.
16. All entries for the show must remain on exhibit until 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 17, 2012. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE SO PLEASE DON’T ASK.**
17. **All entries that have a base should be securely attached to that base. NO entries will be accepted that have loose parts that can fall off and get damaged in handling. Relief carvings on easels, canes on stands and service decoys on a stand are exceptions.**
18. The term “realistic” means work detailed to the extent of closely resembling the real object.
19. “Impressionistic/free-form/stylized” covers sculptures of subjects that are not realistic, but artistic representations. Media other than wood is accepted only if minor to the piece.
20. The term “caricature” means a humorous exaggeration of distinguishing features.
21. All firearms entered into competition must be unloaded and equipped with trigger locks.
22. Group R & S – Pyrography on Wood does not allow wood burning on such things as gourds, leather, paper, Plexiglas, etc. Group R and S – Any artwork entered in Pyrography competition must use burning as a primary medium in the form of a picture or design – plus what is already there.

JUDGING STANDARDS

1. **Originality and Design** – Unusual and exceptional interpretations of the subject matter, true to life. Where applicable, consider proportions, anatomy, balance and perspective, use of light and shadows, use of colors. Is the piece a copy of a rough out, seminar or class piece?
2. **Skilled Executions** – Tight laminations, good carving techniques, properly fitted add-ons, such as objects in hands. Also, the difficulty of the carving, as in a one-piece project.
3. **Surface Finish** – Carefully executed sanding where applicable: removal of blemishes such as fuzz, application of finishes. Does the finish enhance the grain? Consider choice of color and application in relationship to overall work.
4. **Final Representation** – In review of all of the above, take into consideration the decorative value and worthiness of the exhibit and the overall continuity and artistry of the presentation.