

COMPLEXITY 2022: *Innovations in Weaving*

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

(updated: 6-18-21)

How do I enter my work?

All entries must be submitted through the designated online jury service, with images specified in Prospectus and an online entry form. Once that service is under contract, we will update this answer with more details.

If entries are not judged by category, why must a category be specified?

All entries are judged as a whole for both admission and awards. The category assignment provides guidance for space usage at the venue, which is also the reason for size limitations for some types of entries.

Do I need images taken by a professional photographer?

No, but you do need high-quality, in-focus, well lit images with plain, non-cluttered backgrounds. This is the only way jurors will have to view and evaluate your work, so make their job easier. Follow the size and format specifications in the Prospectus precisely. Images of accepted work are also printed in the CW Journal and used for publicity purposes, so we need larger, print-resolution (300 ppi) images.

Regarding lighting, instead of a camera flash, use natural light or carefully positioned photography lights that illuminate the “complexity” of the textile without casting heavy shadows. Photo editing software also can neutralize a busy or shadowy background.

Design with photography in mind. All-white and all-black textiles are notoriously hard to photograph, especially when trying to show off what makes them complex. In this case, a professional photographer might be a good investment.

How should I identify my work?

The image submitted should have no maker label or other identification of the artist visible to the jurors. Accepted artists will be sent labels to be attached to the piece for delivery to the show. Make sure to follow the directions, attaching the label to the correct side of the textile so it will not be visible when on display. **IF** your entry is designed to be displayed in a configuration that is not obvious, you should include a photograph to make it clear.

Please explain the eligibility restrictions regarding other shows and image use.

Our purpose is to present an exciting show of excellent, complex, woven textiles never seen elsewhere. This is why work cannot have been exhibited in another show or published in a print or digital publication prior to the completion of Complexity 2022.

However, the organizers recognize many artists use online communication media for their businesses. Therefore, we have eased back on previous restrictions regarding social media, blogs or e-newsletters a bit. While any work that has been displayed online **in its entirety** remains ineligible, it is OK if small portions of the work, finished or in-progress, have been shown on the artist's social media or other online accounts.

My work was completed with the help of a collaborator who is not a Complex Weavers member. Is it still eligible?

There has been, and will continue to be, a field on the entry form to list a collaborator, whether or not the person is a CW member. However, while judging criteria listed in the Prospectus focus on the complexity of the cloth and design, high quality construction and finishing are just as critical. If the weaver's work is outstanding, but the collaborator's sewing or other contribution does not enhance the work, it would not rate highly with jurors.

In addition, Complexity 2022 limits entries to one per member. If the member submits an entry with a collaborator, that would count as the one allowed entry.

What do you mean by special fixtures or protective items?

The Emporium has pedestals for 2D and 3D works, and CW will supply some basic fixtures, including mannequins, body forms or small display boxes. If your entry will require something special to be properly or safely displayed, for example, a non-standard fixture or locked display case, you will have to provide that. Artists invited to exhibit at Complexity 2022 will be given more specific instructions about how to prepare their entries.

Can my entry be hung from the ceiling?

At the Complexity 2022 venue, nothing can be hung from the ceiling. This is probably not the right show for a ceiling-mounted sculpture unless you can supply the free-standing framework from which it will hang.

Are there restrictions on wall-mounted work?

The Emporium space uses the Walker Display system. Framed and stretcher-mounted work must be wired to hang on that system. We will be working with the gallery regarding free-hanging, unmounted textiles and will provide accepted artists with detailed instructions.

If my entry is invited to the exhibit, how should it be packed?

Invited artists will be provided specific shipping instructions, but here are some important packing tips. Make sure the textile is protected from water damage by a sealed plastic bag or container, just in case the box gets wet in transit. Likewise, do not wrap your textile in colored tissue paper, as it may stain the textile if it should get wet. Even with white tissue paper, do not use a lot of tape, as this makes it difficult to reuse for the return trip.

My piece changed, or was accidentally damaged between the time I entered the show and it was accepted. Can I send it anyway?

The work must appear exactly as it did in the image you submitted, otherwise it will not be exhibited. Likewise, any work that is received in poor repair, or finished in a way that would allow it to deteriorate while on exhibit, may be withdrawn from the show.

Shipping from locations outside the U.S. is difficult, and prepaid return shipping from some international locations is not available.

How can I participate?

Participation in Complexity 2022 by members outside the U.S. is highly encouraged, as it demonstrates the international reach and breadth of talent in our organization. While we recognize the shipping challenges and costs all artists face, particularly those living outside the U.S., security and liability issues limit delivery and return of entries to commercial shipping services. Courier services (like Parcel Monkey) may offer better options for international members.

Prepaid return labels are required via UPS or Federal Express, where they are available. If they are not possible from an accepted artist's shipping location, please contact the [Complexity 2022 Chair](#).

Can I pick up my entry after Seminars?

No. The exhibit continues through July 29, and work must remain throughout the show.