

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

BACKGROUND

The Guild was formed in 1984 to promote quality craft work from Wales. In 2002 we moved into our new home Craft in the Bay, and have therefore been running a successful retail gallery for over twenty seven years. Since our early days we have grown considerably, not only in terms of membership but also in reputation. The Makers Guild in Wales was originally formed as a maker co-operative and it continues to adhere to that ethos although it is now an incorporated charity. It could not survive without members' input and you will be expected to become a fully active member.

The Makers Guild in Wales owns and maintains Craft in the Bay. The gallery is one of the largest craft galleries in Wales and is a major tourist destination, attracting over 100,000 visitors in 2010. The Guild is a membership organisation and a registered Charity, so all members are required to sign up to our Memorandum and Articles of Association and comply with our Charitable Aims and the organisations Code of Conduct. The Charity Commission recognises that by allowing the public free admission, and showing craft and applied art of the highest calibre, we offer the public education through engagement and interaction with craftwork.

If your application is successful you will be offered membership of a unique organisation recognised for its reputation for quality and representing some of the finest craft makers and applied artists in Wales. As a prospective member you will be required to comply with our charitable aims along with the other commitments which are required to ensure the smooth running of such a large and prestigious organisation.

THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

As a member, you are entitled to the following benefits for as long as you meet the membership criteria, which include living and working in Wales, paying your subscription, and adhering to the Guild's Code of Practice, Bye Laws etc.

You are entitled to:

- membership of the largest independent body representing craft-makers and the applied artists in Wales
- display work at Craft in the Bay (for many of our members, Craft in the Bay is their best selling outlet), all work sold is subject to the Guild's commission, currently 40% plus VAT.
- have a page on the MGW website.
- attend all Guild activities.
- submit work for external exhibitions organised by the Guild.
- participate in exhibition opportunities held at Craft in the Bay including the main exhibitions area and the Members Showcase.
- have preferential opportunities to run workshops and other educational events.
- sit on Guild committees such as Exhibitions, Education, Finance, Fundraising, Marketing.
- receive the Guild newsletter via email.
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- attend and vote at the AGM.
- a 10% fee reduction on any purchase or Guild workshop you wish to attend.
- display the MGW logo on your website and promotional material.
- reliable monthly payments by BACS for items sold through the gallery and tuition fees.
- promotion through press releases on specific events/stories. General marketing of MGW and CITB eg listings and ads in Crafts magazine, BUZZ, Ceramic Review, local press.
- networking opportunities.
- receive prior notice with opportunities to book a place on the Continual Professional Development Programme of events organised by and held at Craft in the Bay, plus entitlement to reduction in fee.
- be part of a supportive, nurturing organisation with a strong collective voice raising the profile of craft in Wales.
- commission opportunities (10% commission to MGW).
- involvement in decision making throughout the organisation.
- receive invitations to private views and targeted social events held at CITB to meet potential customers.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

Provided that your application is successful, you will be invited to become a Maker Member once we receive payment of your annual subscription fee (currently £150+VAT pro-rata) plus a one-off payment of £50 (hanging fee) and the relevant commitment to stewarding (helping in the Gallery). The Makers Guild in Wales has co-operative ethos and members have responsibilities to the Guild, which include:

- **Subscriptions** Once accepted, your Membership will continue for as long as you meet the membership criteria, which include living and working in Wales and prompt payment of your Subscriptions annually (1st July each year)
- **Stewarding** - This is a commitment to spend time helping in the gallery. It is done on a sliding scale depending on your distance from the gallery, For example, if you live in Cardiff you will be expected to do 8 days per year; if you are in North Wales, 2 days.
- **Stock** – you are expected to provide work for sale on a sale or return basis . Your work must be delivered priced with the selling price to include commission. You should keep your work fully stocked and refresh to ensure sales.
- **Code of Conduct** whilst a member you agree to abide by the Guild's Policies, Bye Laws, Code of Conduct and Trustee/Management decisions along with the Guild's co-operative ethos, this will mean your agreeing to promote the organisation, to help ensure the organisation works, thrives and remains sustainable.

CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP

Selection for Guild membership is open to all professional craftspeople, living and or working in Wales, who are personally involved with the design and execution of fine, contemporary craft and who produce work that demonstrates unity of design, craftsmanship and innovation.

All work is assessed according to the Guild's **Selection Criteria**. Work must be produced from basic materials. The transformation of those materials must show:

- a) A strong measure of individuality and innovation in the Maker's approach to the work.
- b) A technical mastery of the medium.
- c) A sense of design, taking into account functional values.
- d) A sense of aesthetic values.

The applicant must be able to supply a Portfolio that contains proof of professional practice.

THE SELECTION PROCESS

Applicants are initially asked to submit a completed application form and provide images of recent work. This will need to be sent into us before the deadline of 31st May. From these submissions, a Panel will determine which applicants will be invited to bring work in to view. These shortlisted applicants will then be invited to bring to the gallery a selection of recent work, together with a Portfolio including printed support material (photographs, promotional material, designs etc.) for scrutiny by a selection panel at Craft in the Bay at a date to be announced.

- Applications need to be submitted by 31st May by email.
- The Standing Panel assesses the applications and creates a short-list. Applicants will be notified of the results (end of July) by email.
- Short-listed applicants will be requested to bring in a selection of their work on a date during September by email.
- Notification of successful/unsuccessful applications will be given by the end of September by email.

A non-refundable application fee of £25 to cover administration costs is payable by applicants who will all receive notification of their progress throughout the selection process. The Guild will not, however, enter into any further correspondence about its decisions.