

Background

The Suffolk Craft Society was formed in 1970 to promote the value and importance of contemporary crafts and is keen to attract makers who set the highest standards for themselves and have achieved a high degree of skill with an imaginative and sympathetic approach to making.

The Society supports more than 110 members with a wide variety of craft skills. The aim is to raise the public awareness of fine craft while exploring exhibition and selling opportunities for members as well as offering possibilities to meet socially. In pursuing its objectives, the Society shall have no regard to gender, ethnic origin, age, sexuality, religion or disability.

Membership Criteria

Membership is open to makers working in any craft who have achieved the expected high standards and who meet all the criteria. The Society is keen to attract members whose work shows imaginative spark and that engages with contemporary practice and aesthetics. Technical skill and understanding is a basic requirement for selection but applicants must also demonstrate a willingness to challenge themselves in the use of design, materials and techniques. The Society is particularly keen to attract new and innovative work and would welcome submissions from people working in unusual or unconventional materials. As a general rule, fine art, reproduction work, scale models, and photography, however well crafted, are not accepted.

To be eligible for craft membership an applicant shall be permanently resident or working in Suffolk or on its borders. The Committee may waive this condition if it considers that the applicant has had a long-term connection with Suffolk or the Society. If a Craft Member subsequently leaves Suffolk they may remain a member of the Society.

Benefits of membership

- The prestige of being part of, and participating in, a member-led association of craft people.
- To submit work to and sell work through a varied programme of exhibitions.
- Promotion of work through the Society website.
- Professional opportunities within the Society's education programme.
- Have an entry in any directory which the Society may produce
- Free admission to all exhibitions organised by the Society.
- Professional networking through the Newsletter, the online Forum and the Society's meetings and social events
- The support and opportunities offered by the Friends of the Society.

Responsibilities of membership

- A commitment to the objects of the Society.
- Adhering to and upholding the Constitution and Bye-Laws of the Society (currently under revision).
- A willingness to attend members' meetings, vote at meetings and to serve on committees.
- A willingness to raise matters for the AGM agenda, giving the Secretary not less than 30 days notice.
- A willingness to make work available for exhibitions.
- To ensure that all work submitted for exhibitions is of the highest standard.
- To maintain parity in price between work sold through SCS and that sold privately or in other galleries.
- Volunteer three or more days per year to stewarding and/or setting up exhibitions unless a disability precludes this.
- To promote the SCS whenever possible.
- Provide images of your work understanding they will be used by SCS for promotional and publicity purposes.
- Pay subscriptions and any other amounts properly due to the Society as and when they become payable.
- Accept SCS rates of commission set on sales from our exhibitions and retail outlets. SCS acts as an agent on your behalf.

Membership Application Process

Stage One – Application

We welcome applications which should be submitted, for initial review by the committee, on the form provided along with the requested images, preferably electronically, to the Membership Coordinator, membership@suffolkcraftsociety.com, or to in the post to the address at the foot of the page.

Stage Two – Interview

The Craft Society hosts a New Member Selection Day once or twice a year. This is likely to be every Spring and Autumn but timing is dependent on having a sufficient number of applicants. After your application is received, and if appropriate, you will be invited to come along to a Suffolk venue on a Sunday afternoon to display your work and speak with existing members. At this time an administration fee of £10 is payable via a cheque made out to Suffolk Craft Society sent to the address at the foot of this page or handed over in person on the Selection day.

At the selection day members will participate in a private ballot, voting as to whether it is felt your work is a good fit for the Society's aims and ambitions and that membership will be of benefit to both you and the Society. Applications are accepted throughout the year.

Stage Three – Probationary Period

A successful applicant is accepted as a Full Member but will be under the oversight of the Committee for the first year. This period is a chance for newly selected members to get to know the Society and participate in our exhibitions and events. It is also a chance for the Society to get to know their newest members and to ensure the membership is beneficial to both parties. New members can immediately participate and submit work to Society outlets and exhibitions with the normal selection procedures in place.

Subscriptions

If you become a member following one of our Selection Days your subscription will be pro rata for that year. Our subscription year starts on 1 April. Failure to pay the subscription due within 2 months of selection will invalidate the selection but will not preclude a future application. Subscription for a full year's membership is £100.

Submission

Makers applying for membership should send their application form along with images to:

Membership Coordinator

Catherine Allen

St Christopher's Cottage

Leavenheath

Colchester

Essex, CO6 4PH

membership@suffolkcraftsociety.com

Applications via email are preferred if possible.

Once an invitation to a specific Selection day has been made an admin fee of £10 is payable via a cheque made out to Suffolk Craft Society and sent to the above address or handed over in person on the Selection day.