



2025 STANDARDS PER CLASSIFICATION

Classification I – Jewelry Standards

The *Traditional* Category is meant to encourage artists to work within their tribal tradition, using traditional materials.

The *Contemporary* Category is meant to encourage innovative jewelry using both traditional as well as non-traditional materials and techniques.

In 2023, we implemented the “Boundary” Category within each division. This Category is designed to give Jurors and Class Managers more options when looking at pieces that do not necessarily conform to already existing Categories but use the same techniques and materials.

In Jewelry, for example, rather than move certain pieces to Sculpture or Diverse Arts, *where an artist may not have been juried in*, the piece will stay in Jewelry but be considered “Boundary.” An example of a “Boundary” piece in Jewelry is a silver seed pot with inlay.

1. Allowed

a. Materials

- i. Organic and Stone Materials
 1. Bone
 2. Wood
 3. Natural untreated stones, shells and gemstones, ceramic medallions and/or objects set as stones.
 4. Natural pearls, finished stones and gemstones in cabochon and faceted shapes set in metal settings.
 5. Non-Plated Metals
 - a. Must be clearly identified.
 - b. Gold must be at least 14 karat
- ii. Findings

1. Jump rings
2. Earring backs
3. Clasps
4. Barrette clips
5. Money clips
6. Hooks and eyes
7. Leather for bolos, concho belts and buckles
8. Single bead/cone combination to finish ends
(beadmakers)

b. Techniques and Tools

2. Allowed With Disclosure

a. Materials

- i. Stabilized turquoise (Must be declared on entry form or disqualified)
- ii. Cultured Pearls (Must be declared on entry form or disqualified)
 1. Undisclosed Cultured Pearls are implied to be natural.
 2. Must represent less than 50% of the finished item
- iii. Imported coral from temporary strands
 1. Must be natural and un-dyed.
 - a. Apple Coral can be used with disclosure
 2. Must be used in combination with hand-made item(s)
 3. Must represent less than 50% of the finished item
- iv. Commercially available glass beads
 1. Must be used in combination with handmade item(s)
- v. Cast jewelry including sand, cement, lost wax, and tufa.
 1. Editions limited to 25
 2. Must be signed with the artist's hallmark and numbered
- vi. Rubber molds allowed (if editions limit also adhered to)
- vii. Commercial chain
 1. As a finding only
- viii. Fabricated laminated pattern sheet metals
- ix. Precious metal clay

b. Inlay (Natural or treated materials must be disclosed on entry form)

- i. In the ratio of no less than 85% stone/shell, 15% adhesive.
- ii. No powder inlay allowed

c. Techniques and Tools

3. Not Allowed

a. Materials

- i. Imported or non-Indian hand-made stone or shell beads and fetishes
 - 1. Excludes coral in hand-made items
- ii. Imported and/or color treated nuggets or tumbled chips of any material
- iii. Reconstituted or compressed laboratory grown, plastic or synthetic block materials
- iv. Fabricated pearls made of glass or plastic.
- v. Color-treated materials, examples include but are not limited to:
 - 1. Blue onyx
 - 2. Blue topaz
 - 3. Irradiated or dyed red coral
 - 4. Sponge coral
 - 5. Bamboo coral
 - 6. Synthetic opal
- vi. Items assembled from non-Indian or manufactured components, including but not limited to:
 - 1. Machine-made or die-struck components
 - 2. Purchased cast blanks
 - 3. Machine-made or other metal beads
 - 4. Restrung jewelry
 - a. Multiple strand glass bead necklaces
 - b. Exception is made for jewelry containing repurposed components that have been transformed by the artist
 - 5. Machine made “liquid” silver & gold, or plated materials
 - 6. Powdered inlay

Division Descriptions

Division A: Traditional Jewelry. This division is intended for all traditionally-made jewelry using culturally-acceptable materials (including silver, beads, quills, brass, copper, stones, shells, traditional techniques and traditional designs that are derived from ancestral styles and designs).

Division B: Traditional Stones and Shells Jewelry (Pre-Colonial style). No metal except for findings. This division is meant to honor Pre-Colonial jewelry styles, primarily mosaic and heishi styles but can include any jewelry materials that are derived from ancestral styles and designs.

Division C: Contemporary Jewelry. Any and all allowable materials, techniques, and designs with disclosure.

Division D: Contemporary Stones and Shell Jewelry (Pre-Colonial style using contemporary materials). This division is meant to represent the modern extension of Pre-Colonial jewelry styles, primarily mosaic and heishi styles but can include any jewelry materials that are derived from ancestral styles and designs. Any and all allowable materials, techniques, and designs with disclosure.

Important Reminders:

1. Special consideration is to be given to the use of natural hand processed materials.
2. Judging of contemporary divisions recognizes that the artist is working within a modern context. Considered here are artists' sense of design, choice and use of materials and techniques as they relate to contemporary Indigenous life.
3. The Non-wearable Jewelry Division is now considered part of the Boundary Category or under Sculpture Classification (if juried in).
4. The Boundary category should be used only where work does not conform to any listed category.

5. All stone, shell or metal elements, including beads, as well as all feathers and animal materials must be properly identified and comply with Jewelry standards and all State and Federal laws and regulations.
6. Artists may enter each piece of a matched set individually by Category or as a matched set.

**Classification I – Jewelry
Judging Divisions and Categories**

Division	Category
A: Traditional Jewelry	101: Necklaces
	102: Bracelets and Watch Bands
	103: Rings
	104: Pins and Pendants
	105: Earrings
	106: Concho Belts
	107: Buckles and Ranger Sets
	108: Ketches and Bolos
	109: Coordinated Sets
	111: Boundary (“Gray area art. Classification transfer possible if juried in)
	B: Traditional Stones and Shells
202: Bracelets and Watch Bands	
203: Rings	
204: Pins and Pendants	

- 205: Earrings
- 206: Bolos and Buckles (including ranger sets)
- 207: Coordinated sets
- 208: Boundary (“Gray area art”. Classification transfer possible if juried in)

C: Contemporary Jewelry

- 301: Necklaces
- 302: Bracelets and Watch Bands
- 303: Rings
- 304: Pins and Pendants
- 305: Earrings
- 306: Concho Belts
- 307: Buckles and Ranger Sets
- 308: Ketohs and Bolos
- 309: Coordinated Sets
- 310: Boundary (“Gray area art”. Classification transfer possible if juried in)

D: Contemporary Stones and Shells

- 401: Necklaces
- 402: Bracelets and Watch Bands
- 403: Rings
- 404: Pins and Pendants
- 405: Earrings

406: Bolos & Buckles (including ranger sets)

407: Coordinated sets

408: Boundary (“Gray area art”).
Classification transfer possible if juried in)