

The Art of Handmade

Dan Hardison

When you think of art, what comes to mind – paintings or sculpture perhaps? What about stained-glass windows, a wood carved animal, a hand-sewn quilt, needlepoint cushions, or a handcrafted table, can these items not be considered art also?

art: The products of human creativity

Regardless what a person may think about art, most people do enjoy that which is handmade. And if someone we know created the item, it will have special meaning. This can be true with a quilt sewn by your grandmother, a table crafted by your father, or needlepoint kneelers created by members of a parish.

handmade: Made by hand or a hand process

Many collectors of art and especially crafts, collect these works because they enjoy being surrounded by things that are not only beautiful, but have also been created by hand. Hand crafted items by people who care about the quality of what they make and who love creating it.

artist: A person whose creative work shows sensitivity and imagination

Whether a person creates objects for a living or just as a hobby, they do so because they love the process of creating, of making something by hand. This process of craftsmanship has been described by Nancy E. Green as “with an eye to both beauty and utility, not just art for art’s sake, but art for the soul’s sake.” So, whether it is a painting above an altar or a handmade coffee mug, it is the fact that it was created with “heart and hand” that makes it special.

love: Have a great affection or liking for

When we surround ourselves with these handmade items, everyday tasks take on more meaning. Even a sip of coffee from a handmade mug seems different. As clay artist Dina Wilde-Ramsing has said, “There is a very intimate relationship between the maker and user. God bless the people who appreciate that.”

Shelf Clock

7 1/4" W x 8 3/4" H x 3 1/4" D

Cherry with a color woodblock print face

By Dan Hardison

