

Craft Media

When we hear the term “media,” we tend to think of communication media (radio, TV, The Internet, etc.) or media arts like videos and podcasts. But in the world of crafts, media refers to the *materials* used to create objects. Technique refers to the process or processes used to manipulate the materials. Product refers to the objects created by manipulating the materials.

Example:

Medium	Technique	Product
Metal (silver wire)	Bend, solder	Jewelry
Metal (steel rods)	Heat, hammer, twist	Hook
Metal (bronze)	Cast	Sculpture

Because there are so many diverse ways to manipulate materials to create products and so many different products that are considered crafts, it is often convenient to divide crafts into broad categories according to the materials – or media – used. The category is determined by the main material used. For example, a craftsperson who makes furniture from wood might also use some type of metal fasteners or a synthetic adhesive, but the craft would be categorized as “wood.” If a craftsperson uses a mixture of media, that falls into the category of “mixed media.”

Nine of the most common categories for crafts media are:

- Ceramics
- Fiber
- Glass
- Leather
- Metal
- Mixed-Media
- Natural/Organic
- Stone
- Wood