

A M E R I C A N C R A F T C O U N C I L

promoting understanding and appreciation of contemporary American craft

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTEMPORARY CRAFT ARTISTRY TO BE SHOWCASED AT AMERICAN CRAFT COUNCIL CHARLOTTE SHOW

Charlotte, N.C. (Sept. 30, 2003) — Distinctive works made by outstanding American craft artists highlight the 9th annual American Craft Council Charlotte Show to be held Friday, Dec.12, through Sunday, Dec. 14, 2003 at the downtown Convention Center.

According to Carmine Branagan, executive director of the New York-based American Craft Council, “The Council takes pride in presenting an exhibition in which highly talented American artists can display their individuality, whether one-of-a-kind works or limited production pieces. We deeply appreciate the richness of the craft tradition of the Carolinas.”

More than 225 participating artists, including 44 from the Carolinas, will be exhibiting at the three-day event. All were selected through a rigorous jurying process.

Collectors and craft enthusiasts will enjoy the opportunity to meet the nation’s premier craft artists. Visitors to this once-a-year show, ideally timed for the holiday season, will choose from a wide variety of beautifully handcrafted works. Exceptional crafts on display include: jewelry, wearable art, quilts, baskets, toys and furniture, as well as sculptures and functional works of glass, ceramics, metal, wood, leather, paper and decorative fibers. More than 8,000 attendees are expected to shop the diverse selection of one-of-a-kind craft.

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American Craft Council “Best of Show” Awards

Awards of Excellence will be presented on Saturday, December 13, to five artists selected by a juror for overall creativity of their work displayed at the show. Melissa Post, curator, Mint Museum Craft + Design will serve as judge for the event.

Show Dates, Times and Location

Hours and Times

Friday, December 12, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday, December 13, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sunday, December 14, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Location and Services

Directions: Follow I-77 to Exit 9B onto I-277 (John Belk Freeway). Take Exit 1E to College Street. The Convention Center, 501 South College Street, is the first building on the right at the corner of College and Stonewall Streets. The Convention Center is wheelchair accessible. Food and drinks may be purchased at the show.

Admission

Public admission is \$8 for one day, \$14 for both days. Children under 12 are admitted free. American Craft Council members and those who join at the show also are admitted free.

CCRI Benefit Gala

Together with Charlotte-based Child Care Resources, Inc. (CCRI), the American Craft Council will host the fifth annual “Little Wonders” benefit 6:00-9:30 p.m. Friday, December 12. Proceeds benefit CCRI, a nonprofit, child care resource and referral agency. For benefit information, call 704.376.6697.

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CMS Student Craft Exhibition

Works from the 4th Annual K-12 Student Craft Exhibition, a program of the Mint Museum of Craft + Design, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) and the American Craft Council, will be a prominent attraction at the Charlotte Show. The theme this year is teapots, in anticipation of the exhibition, *The Artful Teapot*, which will open at the Mint Museum of Craft + Design on January 31, 2004. Selected by a jury process, these unique works were created by students during the 2003 academic year.

Media Partners

Exclusive media partnerships for the 2003 Charlotte Show include Time Warner Cable, *The Charlotte Observer* and WFAE 90.7 FM. The American Craft Council is also title sponsor for the 2003-2004 One Voice Chorus Holiday Concert Series.

About the American Craft Council

The American Craft Council is a national, not-for-profit public educational organization founded in 1943 by Aileen Osborn Webb. The mission of the Council is to promote understanding and appreciation of contemporary American craft. Programs include the bimonthly magazine *American Craft*, annual juried craft shows presenting artists and their work, the Aileen Osborn Webb Awards honoring excellence in craft, a specialized library on contemporary craft, workshops and seminars. Membership is open to all. Information: 800.724.0859 or www.craftcouncil.org.

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