

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 SARASOTA SHOW

SARASOTA, Fla. (Sept. 30, 2003) – Distinctive works made by outstanding American craft artists highlight the 11th annual American Craft Council Sarasota Show to be held Friday, Dec. 5 through Sunday, Dec. 7, 2003 at Robarts Arena.

More than 185 artists, who have been selected through a rigorous jurying process, will be exhibiting at the Sarasota show. Twenty-eight are from Florida including 11 from the Tampa Bay/Sarasota Bay area.

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 sculptural and functional works of glass, ceramics, metal, wood, leather, paper and decorative fibers. More than 10,000 are expected to shop the diverse selection of one-of-a-kind craft.

“The Council takes great pride in presenting an exhibition where highly talented American craft artists can display their individuality with one-of-a-kind works or limited production pieces,” says Carmine Branagan, executive director of the Council. “We deeply appreciate the richness and uniqueness of the craft tradition in Florida. This year the Council is sponsoring a number of public events including children's workshops in October and a lecture series in November at the Selby Library to add another educational component to the show.”

Show Dates, Times and Location

Hours:

Friday, Dec. 5	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec.6	10 a.m. - 6 p.m
Sunday, Dec. 7	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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Location:

Robarts Arena is on the 3000 block of Fruitville Road. From I-75, take Exit 210 (Fruitville Road). Drive west on Fruitville; Robarts Arena is 3.9 miles ahead on left. From U.S. 41 (Tamiami Trail), turn east on Fruitville. Area is two miles ahead on right.

Robarts Arena 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.

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.

For more information, please call 1-800-836-3470 or visit www.craftcouncil.org.

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