

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

Dear Friends of the American Craft Council Shows,

We'd like to share news about program changes at the Council that will help us continue to best serve our mission, now and in the future. The American Craft Council has closed its shows in Charlotte, North Carolina and Sarasota, Florida. Like other industries, the arts – especially nonprofit arts organizations – are facing severe economic challenges locally and nationally. We're proud that the Charlotte and Sarasota shows have helped connect thousands of craft enthusiasts with innovative artists and their work, but unfortunately both shows have experienced a decline in artist participation, public attendance and revenue over the past several years. Although we are disappointed about closing these two shows, this change will allow the Council to focus on presenting the best experience for our artists, members and public audiences through our four continuing shows in Baltimore, Maryland; Atlanta, Georgia; St. Paul, Minnesota and San Francisco, California.

We'd like to thank all of our loyal show attendees who have continuously shown their support during our 14 years in Charlotte and 16 years in Sarasota. Without you, the meaningful exchanges between craft artists and the public at these shows would not have been possible. If you would like to get in touch with an artist you discovered at one of the Council's shows, please contact us and we will do our best to help you connect.

We hope that you'll join the Council in celebrating craft and the nation's premier artists at our four continuing shows. As part of the Council's ongoing advocacy for craft, we also invite you to get involved with the following educational programs in 2009:

· **Conference: Creating a New Craft Culture (October 15-17, 2009, Minneapolis, MN):**

The Council will host an interactive conference to investigate how the core values of craft play a role in future marketplace models. Presenters include: [Dr. Richard Sennett](#), professor and author, *The Craftsman*; [Rob Walker](#), columnist for the *New York Times Magazine* and author of *Buying In: The Secret Dialogue Between What We Buy and Who We Are*; [Garth Clark](#) esteemed curator, historian, scholar, and owner Garth Clark Gallery; [Dr. Sandra Alfoldy](#), Associate Professor, Craft History, NSCAD University; [Tom Patti](#), glass artist; and [Julie Lasky](#), editor, *Change Observer*. To learn more, visit: <http://www.craftcouncil.org/conference09/>.

· **Summer in the City Salon Series (Summer 2009, New York, NY):** In partnership with Etsy.com, an online marketplace for buying and selling handmade craft, the Council will host three informative public conversations exploring innovations and convergences in craft led by prominent guest artists, bloggers, gallery owners and others in the craft field. Event dates will be announced in May 2009.

· **American Craft magazine:** The Council serves a readership of 90,000 with *American Craft*, a bi-monthly magazine that features undiscovered makers and innovative artistic leaders to connect the converging worlds of craft, design, art, fashion, architecture and industry. To learn more, visit: <http://www.americancraftmag.org/>.

To learn more about the American Craft Council, please visit www.craftcouncil.org.

Again, we thank you for your past, present, and future support as the Council continues its commitment to promoting understanding and appreciation of contemporary American craft.

Sincerely,

American Craft Council

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