



PRES-
ENT
TENSE

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Chris Amundsen
612-206-3101
camundsen@craftcouncil.org

Pamela Diamond
612-206-2121
pdiamond@craftcouncil.org

AMERICAN CRAFT COUNCIL TO HOST 12TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Unique “Present Tense” gathering will emphasize dynamic conversations between craft artists, educators, and thinkers on the issues of the day

Minneapolis, MN – The American Craft Council (ACC) will convene a national conference October 13 – 15, 2016, at the Kaneko in Omaha, Nebraska. But this is no ordinary conference. There will be no lectures, no concurrent programming, and no sessions longer than 45 minutes. Instead, the format calls for moderated conversations between craft luminaries with contrasting points of view – interspersed with opportunities for participants to talk among themselves.

The unusual format will foster lively dialogue across disciplines and generations and promote a keen sense of community. In seven sessions, pairs will debate apprenticeship, education, institutional leadership, process, community, interpretation, and criticism.

Confirmed speakers include:

- Rosanne Somerson, president, Rhode Island School of Design
- Michael Strand, educator and social-practice potter
- Fabio J. Fernández, executive director, the Society of Arts and Crafts
- Bruce Pepich, executive director and curator of collections, Racine Art Museum
- Amos Paul Kennedy, printmaker and activist
- Tanya Aguiñiga, fiber artist
- Nicholas Galanin, artist
- Tina Oldknow, former Corning Museum of Glass curator of modern glass
- Namita Gupta Wiggers, director and co-founder of the Critical Craft Forum
- Ayumi Horie, potter

After each main session, participants will be invited to respond to the speakers’ insights in themed small-group conversations.

A highlight of “Present Tense” will be the unveiling of a new Molly Hatch ceramic platter installation, commissioned for the conference. Hatch is using as inspiration images she found in the ACC Library archives. Conference supporters who donate at least \$5,000 will get to keep an original Hatch platter from the installation when the conference concludes.

Conference attendees are also invited to attend the gala presentation of the 2016 American Craft Council Awards on the evening of Friday, October 14. Seven new members of the ACC College of Fellows will be honored, along with winners of the Gold Medal for Consummate Craftsmanship, the Aileen Osborn Webb Award of Philanthropy, and the Award of Distinction.

The setting for both gala and conference is the Kaneko, “an open space for open minds that nurtures and promotes creativity”; the Kaneko is headquartered in three turn-of-the-century warehouses in burgeoning craft hub Omaha, Nebraska.

ACC members may register for \$265. New members will pay \$335. Student registration is \$215. Scholarships are available; students and recent graduates must apply by May 31. For more information, visit <http://goo.gl/forms/adjm0AZUbS>.

Registration for non-members is \$425; sale begins June 1.

For more information on the conference and to buy tickets, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/present-tense-registration-21689739595>

Sponsors for the conference include the Windgate Charitable Foundation; Shepard Exposition Services; Todd Merrill Studio Contemporary; and Molly Hatch. To inquire about sponsorship, contact Lauren Kebschull at lkebschull@craftcouncil.org.

ABOUT THE AMERICAN CRAFT COUNCIL

No one understands the world of artful living better than the American Craft Council. The national nonprofit educational organization has been shaping the artisanal craft movement for decades, serving as a craft chronicler, tastemaker, convener, and provocateur through its bimonthly magazine *American Craft*, annual juried shows presenting artists and their work, thought leadership conferences, awards of excellence, research library, workshops, and seminars. For additional information, visit craftcouncil.org or follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/craftcouncil, on Twitter at twitter.com/craftcouncil, and on Instagram at instagram.com/craftcouncil.