

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**American Craft Council Announces Recipients of Inaugural American Craft Council Emerging Voices Award**



Jaydan Moore, *Specimens* (2013); found materials; 36 x 60 x 2 in.; Photo: Courtesy of the artist

Minneapolis, MN - January 2015 - The American Craft Council is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2015 American Craft Council Emerging Voices Award, which recognizes one emerging artist, four shortlisted artists, and one emerging scholar. The award is made possible by the generous support of the John & Robyn Horn Foundation and Mohawk Fine Papers.

The 2015 recipients include emerging artist Jaydan Moore; emerging scholar T'ai Smith, and shortlisted artists Ashley Buchanan, Thaddeus Erdahl, Matt Hutton, and Annie Vought. Jurors for the 2015 award were Jean W. McLaughlin, director of the Penland School of Crafts; Lowery Stokes Sims, chief curator at the Museum of Arts and Design; and Perry A. Price, director of education at the American Craft Council.

The newly established American Craft Council Emerging Voices Award is being presented in 2015 and biennially thereafter in recognition and support of the next generation of makers and thinkers in the field of contemporary craft. The awards build on the legacy of the "Young Americans" juried exhibition program, initiated in 1950, that was open to emerging artists under the age of 30. Reflecting the multiple paths for emerging talent in the current craft climate, the ACC Emerging Voices Award recognizes the talent of artists within five years of their major training (including apprenticeships and residencies in addition to formal academic training) and is unrestrictive of age. This is the first ACC award to recognize emerging talent among scholars, curators, and critics.

In addition to the prize remuneration awarded to each recipient, all emerging voices awardees will be featured in the 2015 June/July issue of *American Craft* magazine as well as in a catalogue/journal published by the American Craft Council that includes biographical information, reproductions of their work to date, the publication/reprinting of selected work by the emerging scholar, and a contextual essay on the relationship of awardees to the current state of the contemporary craft field. The serial ACC emerging voices publication is supported by Mohawk Fine Papers and will be produced by the Mohawk Print Innovation Center.

Since 1970, the American Craft Council has given awards for significant contributions to the field of craft. The biennial ACC Awards include the prestigious College of Fellows, presented to artists and individuals nominated and elected by their peers who have demonstrated extraordinary artistic ability; the Aileen Osborn Webb Award for Philanthropy in recognition of support of the field; the Award of Distinction in recognition of an organization, institution, or individual who has made significant contributions to the field over a minimum of 25 years of service, and the Gold Medal for Consummate Craftsmanship, the highest recognition given by the Council, honoring the humanistic and philosophical values exemplified in the career of a previously elected Fellow. The ACC is also proud to annually present the Rare Craft Fellowship Award in association with The Balvenie in support of contributions to the maintenance and revival of traditional crafts in America. The Rare Craft Fellowship Award is presented in partnership with The Balvenie Single Malt Scotch Whisky.

### **2015 American Craft Council Emerging Voices Recipients**

#### **Emerging Artist**

Jaydan Moore (Penland, NC)

#### **Emerging Scholar**

T'ai Smith (Vancouver, BC)

#### **Shortlisted Artists**

Ashley Buchanan (Johnson City, TN)

Thaddeus Erdahl (Hopewell, NJ)

Matt Hutton (Portland, ME)

Annie Vought (Oakland, CA)

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#### **About the American Craft Council**

The ACC is a national, nonprofit public educational organization founded in 1943 by Aileen Osborn Webb. The mission of the Council is to champion craft. Programs include:

- The bimonthly, national award-winning magazine *American Craft*
- Annual juried shows presenting artists and their work in Baltimore, Atlanta, St. Paul and San Francisco
- Leadership conferences on craft and educational workshops and seminars held online and in communities across the country
- The American Craft Council Awards honoring excellence
- A nationally recognized research library in Northeast Minneapolis

For more information about the ACC please visit [craftcouncil.org](http://craftcouncil.org)

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