

America's Leading Craft Artists Featured At Debut Of Charlotte ACC Craft Fair

Many of America's leading craft artists will converge on the new Charlotte Convention Center this December 8-10 as the American Craft Council (ACC) presents its first ACC Craft Fair Charlotte.

ACC Craft fairs are held annually in cities such as Baltimore, San Francisco, Atlanta, Columbus, West Springfield and St. Paul. They are widely acclaimed for the prestige and quality of artisans, and typically attract well over 100,000 visitors each year.

Event organizers hope the three-day exhibition and sale will promote better understanding of the craft movement and entice visitors to buy one-of-a-kind holiday gifts. The much-anticipated craft fair will feature works of over 200 fine craft artists from across the country who were selected by a national jury process.

The show will feature many popular and well-known artists including Chris Triola and her custom-dyed, hand-crafted knitwear; F.B. Fogg and her handmade paper whimsies and "mad-hatter" Johannes Michelson with his wearable wooden hats. The ACC artists are well-known for their unique and entertaining work.

According to Chris Crawlfs, the associate director of American Craft Enterprises, the marketing arm of ACC, the show is a rare opportunity for North Carolinians to see fine national craft artists who typically do not exhibit in the region. "The jury selecting the artists pick the best of the best. They select between 230 to 250 artists from applications submitted from across the country."

The show will also give North Carolina artists, who are known nationally for their contemporary crafts, including their blown glass, an opportunity to showcase their work. A number of artists are from Charlotte and the surrounding areas, as well as the prestigious Penland School. With crafts such as fiber works, ceramics, wood, glass and other media, the quality of the work will be outstanding.

The timing of the fair is perfect because it's during the holiday shopping season. Hand-crafted art makes wonderful gifts, particularly when you are looking for something special," stated Crawlfs. Prices for items will range from \$20 to several thousand.

The ACC Craft Fair Charlotte is open to the public on December 8 and 9 from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.; December 10 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$5; children under 12 are admitted free. A two-day pass will be available for \$8. Parking is avail-

able at the Charlotte Convention Center. Both the show and parking facilities are wheelchair accessible. Food and drinks will be on sale at the fair.

A gala, which includes a preview hour, will be held by ACC and the Young Affiliates of the Mint Museum of Art on Thursday, December 7th. The proceeds from the gala will go towards a \$6,000 Young Affiliate purchase award to be presented to the museum's permanent collection. The preview hour will be from 6:30-7:30 p.m. The gala will be from 7:30-10:30 p.m. The costs for attending the event are \$40 for the general public and \$20 for Young Affiliate members.

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