



Smithsonian Craft Show

MEDA ADVISORY

November 8, 2017

120 CRAFT ARTISTS CHOSEN TO PARTICIPATE IN 2018 SMITHSONIAN CRAFT SHOW

Washington, DC. . . . Cliff Lee, an internationally-known ceramic artist, whose work has been featured at the Smithsonian Craft Show since 1991, recently recalled his reaction when he was notified 27 years ago that he had been juried into the Smithsonian Craft Show: “ ‘Baby, you have finally arrived’ is what I said to myself many years ago, when I got accepted into the show for the first time. I lost a lot of sleep that night!”

Lee’s reaction sums up the excitement and anticipation shared by all of the 120 artists who will come together in April to make the 36th annual Smithsonian Craft Show a very special event.

Smithsonian Craft Show co-chairs Elizabeth Beck and Susan Vallon announced today the artists chosen to participate in the 36th annual prestigious Smithsonian Craft Show. The three-person jury that selected the artists from a pool of nearly 1,000 applicants were Bruce Helander, independent art critic and writer, curator, artist; Jane Milosch, Director, Smithsonian Provenance Research Initiative and curator; and Shoji Satake, Asst. Professor of Ceramics, West Virginia University.

The prestigious juried show will be held at the National Building Museum, Washington, DC, April 26-April 29, 2018. Preview Night reception and first dibs on shopping will be held on Wednesday, April 25.

A list of the selected artists and images of their work is posted at SmithsonianCraftShow.org/

In making the selection juror Jane Milosch said, “... I always appreciate the experience of jurying the Smithsonian Craft Show because it gives me a front row seat to observe the evolution of an established generation of craft artists, working across the United

States and in a variety of materials. They continue to innovate in response to new materials and technologies.”

“The works of artists selected for the 2018 Show reflects not only the high level of technical excellence found in fine craft today, but the originality and creativity that is the hallmark of the American experience. Since 1982, this Show has supported major craft artists, and has also been instrumental in identifying new and emerging ones. In 2018 we will be featuring 28 artists new to the Show, 16 of whom applied for the first time this year. We are excited to welcome back 91 known artists who will be returning to the Smithsonian Craft Show this Spring,” said Elizabeth Beck.

Susan Vallon added, “Shows featuring fine craft offer a unique opportunity to personally connect with artists and to learn the narrative behind the pieces they have created. When so much of daily commerce is conducted over the internet, to have the opportunity to see and touch these museum-quality objects and hear the artists talk about each piece is very exciting.”

The 120 exhibitors represent 33 states. The following is a regional breakdown:

New York 20 artists

Massachusetts 13 artists

California and Pennsylvania 7 artists each

Florida, Illinois, Maine, Ohio, Rhode Island 5 artists each

Connecticut, Colorado, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Virginia 4 artists each

Minnesota, Wisconsin 3 artists each

Louisiana, Missouri, New Jersey, Oregon, Wyoming 2 artists each

Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont 1 artist each

These exhibitors represent all facets of contemporary design and craft, including:

Basketry	3	Leather	3
Ceramics	24	Metal	5
Decorative Fiber	8	Mixed Media	7
Furniture	6	Paper	3
Glass	8	Wearable Art	24
Jewelry	24	Wood	6

(Two artists are showing in two different media.)

The Craft Show will once again support young designers by giving a booth to the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) where students will show and sell their work.

2018 marks the 52nd anniversary of the Smithsonian Women’s Committee which produces the annual Smithsonian Craft Show. Profits from the Craft Show are distributed directly to the Smithsonian’s 19 museums and galleries, 9 research facilities,

20 libraries, and the National Zoo by the Smithsonian Women's Committee through an annual competitive grants program. Almost \$12 million in grants and endowments has been awarded since 1966.

For a list of recent grants and descriptions, visit [**SmithsonianCraftShow.org**](http://SmithsonianCraftShow.org)

For more information about the show visit [**SmithsonianCraftShow.org**](http://SmithsonianCraftShow.org), or contact Heidi Austreng at austrpr@si.edu. For media information, contact Susan Cooper at [scooper2712@gmail.com/](mailto:scooper2712@gmail.com)

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