

SMITHSONIAN CRAFT SHOW 2018

Asian Influence/American Design

April 26–29

**MEDIA ADVISORY
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Foon Sham Named Asian Influence/American Design Visionary Artist of the 2018 Smithsonian Craft Show

The 2018 Smithsonian Craft Show co-chairs Elizabeth Beck and Susan Vallon announced today that the noted Chinese American sculptor Foon Sham will be named the Asian Influence/ American Design Visionary Artist of the 2018 Smithsonian Craft Show.

In making the announcement, Elizabeth Beck said that, “Foon Sham exemplifies the talent, creativity and leadership in his field that embodies the theme of this year’s Smithsonian Craft Show: ‘Asian Influence/ American Design’. We are thrilled that Mr. Sham has agreed to accept this honor. His large-scale sculptures, constructed out of both exotic and common reclaimed woods, have been featured in outdoor exhibitions and museums throughout the United States and world-wide. Born in Macao, China, Mr. Sham is a Professor at the University of Maryland. His deeply-personal works reflect the combined influence of the Asian aesthetic and the American experience which is exactly what the 2018 Smithsonian Craft Show is all about.”



Foon Sham with one of his iconic sculptures.



Escape Tunnel

Susan Vallon added, “We are very excited also to announce that Mr. Sham will create a unique pine sculpture to be incorporated into the fountain, located in the National Building Museum atrium, the site of the 2018 Smithsonian Craft Show. This gift to the show by Mr. Sham is the first time that a temporary sculpture has been created for the fountain in this beautiful historic building. The sculpture will be in place for the Preview Night benefit party on April 25 and the following four days during the Show, April 26 through April 29, 2018. Visitors to the show will be able to see this magical organic wood sculpture creating a mesmerizing waterfall-effect in the fountain. We hope that thousands of Washingtonians will come to enjoy the annual event, showcasing the best in American fine craft and to see Foon Sham’s beautiful new sculpture.”

In accepting the invitation from the Smithsonian, Mr. Sham said, “I am extremely honored and excited to receive this award from the 2018 Smithsonian Craft Show. The show’s emphasis on the influence of Asia on American design

combines two major creative forces in my work which will be co-mingled in the piece that I am creating for the fountain. This work is presenting many interesting technical challenges. For the first time, I will be incorporating a sculpture into an existing water feature. The iconic nature and scale of the beautiful National Building Museum will be a major factor in dictating the final design of my piece. I, too, am looking forward to seeing how it’s going to turn out!”

The 36th annual Smithsonian Craft Show, April 26-April 29 at the National Building Museum is presented by the Smithsonian Women’s Committee. It features 120 premier artists chosen from a pool of almost 1,000 applicants. For the first time, the show will highlight Asian cultural influence on American crafts. Many of today’s top American artists creating cutting-edge art are reconnecting modernism to its roots in Asian culture. The show and sale seeks to engage the public through educational and artistic components that complement the theme “Asian Influence/American Design.”



Spiral Vessel

Since 1966, the Committee has awarded more than \$12 million in competitive grants funded from proceeds of our craft shows to the Smithsonian’s 19 museums and galleries, nine research facilities, traveling exhibits and the National Zoo.

[For more information, visit www.smithsoniancraftshow.org](http://www.smithsoniancraftshow.org)

