

# Smithsonian Craft Show 2019

APRIL 24-28

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PRESS RELEASE

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## JOYCE J. SCOTT named 2019 Smithsonian Visionary Artist

**Joyce J. Scott** has been named the 2019 Smithsonian Visionary Artist in recognition of her outstanding work in jewelry. Her selection was announced today by the Smithsonian Women's Committee (SWC).

The Smithsonian Visionary Award is given to American artists deemed by experts in the field to have achieved the pinnacle of sculptural arts and design. Awardees must have works in major museums and demonstrate distinction, creativity, exceptional artistry and, of course, vision in their respective media. Previous winners include Albert Paley, Wendell Castle, Toots Zinsky, Dale Chihuly, and Faith Ringgold.

The 2019 Award will be presented to Scott by the Secretary of the Smithsonian on Wednesday, April 24 at the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Smithsonian Craft Show Preview Night Benefit. The Craft Show is produced annually by the SWC to support Smithsonian museums, research centers and the National Zoo. It will take place April 24 – April 28, 2019 at the National Building Museum, Washington, DC.

Scott uses off-loom hand-threaded beads and blown glass to create beautiful and arresting jewelry as well as figurative sculptures and wall hangings.

Her art, described in the New York Times as “angry, raucous and shamelessly gorgeous, often provoking unruly laughter”, addresses difficult and challenging issues such as violence, racism, and sex-trafficking. “It is intended,” she says “to induce people to stop raping, torturing and shooting each other.”



On Thursday evening, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 7:00 pm, a special ticketed event titled “CONVO with the Visionary” features a lively and engaging conversation between Scott and Stephanie Stebich, the Margaret and Terry Stent Director of the Smithsonian American Art Museum. A curated selection of Scott's work will be on exhibit during this year's Smithsonian Craft Show.

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In addition, her jewelry will be included in the Smithsonian Visionary Artists Online Auction, hosted by Rago Arts and Auctions. The auction, which runs from April 24 – May 20, offers items created by past Smithsonian Visionary Artists. All proceeds benefit the Smithsonian.

Born, raised and still living in Baltimore, Scott was named a MacArthur Fellow in 2016. Her work appears in the permanent collections of major museums across the country including the Smithsonian American Art Museum. For additional information about the 2019 Smithsonian Craft Show and the Smithsonian Visionary Award, go to [www.smithsoniancraftshow.org](http://www.smithsoniancraftshow.org) or call Program Coordinator Heidi Austreng at 202-633-5006.

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