



Craft in America is pleased to announce the launch of **Handwork: Celebrating American Craft 2026**, a national Semiquincentennial initiative to showcase the importance of the handmade, both throughout our history and in contemporary life.

Handwork 2026 will be a year-long collaboration among organizations, educators, and makers to celebrate the diversity of the crafts that define America, bringing compelling stories and underrepresented art and artists into the spotlight.

Craft is universal and democratic; it unites us by bringing people of all backgrounds and beliefs together. A deeply important carrier of tradition and cultural practice, the handmade connects us through history and time.

The [Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum](#), the national museum dedicated to American craft, is the lead partner for the initiative and will host the core exhibition for the project.

[Americans for the Arts](#), a leading non-profit organization for advancing the arts and arts education, is the Awareness partner for this project.

Handwork 2026 will focus on the following programs:

EXHIBITIONS

Handwork: Celebrating American Craft 2026 culminates with a **CORE EXHIBITION** opening in late 2026 at the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Museums and art centers joining as participants in the *Handwork 2026* initiative will complete the rich diversity of interpretations on the work of the hand with **EXHIBITIONS** and related programs throughout the year. We invite all museums and regional arts centers to join this effort with the craft-centric, culture-based exhibitions you are planning for the year 2026.

DOCUMENTARY FILM SERIES

A four-part **DOCUMENTARY FILM SERIES**, EAST, WEST, NORTH and SOUTH will be produced by the team behind the Peabody Award-winning, PBS national series *Craft in America*. The series will present a rich, democratic exploration of the handmade in traditional, studio, ethnic, and contemporary practices. Three **DIGITAL CONTENT** initiatives will complement the *Handwork 2026* episodes:

Handmade America

Short form videos featuring new artists and integrating 17 years of media from the *Craft in America* archives to stream on YouTube, the PBS video app, and the PBS, *Handwork* and *Craft in America* websites.

Craft Class

An intergenerational companion series to *Craft in America*, *Craft Class* will connect leaders in the craft field with viewers at home, inviting multigenerational family viewing and helping viewers to become makers. *Craft Class* will be a fun, upbeat, and inspirational experience on PBS Digital, the PBS video app, YouTube, and the PBS, *Handwork* and *Craft in America* websites.

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Craft Across America

A curated selection of craft-based films and videos from independent PBS member stations and hundreds of participating Handwork organizations, museums and institutions nationwide. This vast selection of videos will play on the Handwork website, an intersection of hundreds of Handwork participating organizations and a hub for all things craft.

For more information about where each digital series will be available, please visit handwork2026.org.

BOOK

Presenting the extraordinary range of the handmade in the United States, the *Handwork 2026* **BOOK** will feature craft history, artists, materials and processes, focusing on untold stories. The book will be object-based and object-driven. It will include essays by leading experts, artist statements, and images of exquisite and remarkable handmade objects. It will illuminate the contributions of craftspeople throughout our history. It will be one of the first and only books to bridge history by exploring the craft continuum over the span of American culture.

EDUCATION

The **EDUCATION** component of *Handwork 2026* will include interdisciplinary learning initiatives at all levels of the education system, with a special focus on grades K–12. It will take a wide look at the history, cultural traditions, and impact of craft in the United States, from Indigenous origins until today. Marilyn Stewart PhD, a nationally recognized art educator and author of art textbooks, will oversee the creation of the education guides. The guides will include hands-on craft activities and will be available on craftinamerica.org and handwork2026.org.

ENGAGEMENT

In partnership with local, state and national organizations, *Handwork 2026* will be amplified by a robust **SOCIAL MEDIA** campaign: Craft250. *Handwork 2026* will collaborate with craft makers, artists, museums and organizations to feature 250 posts – one for each working day of 2026 – to shine a spotlight on a particular object, process, technique or tradition, sparking a conversation and creating a forum for new ideas. There will also be an aggregate **WEBSITE**: handwork2026.org, which will house all information about *Handwork 2026* activities, participating organizations and how to join the national celebration.

Handwork: Celebrating American Craft 2026, an idea envisioned by a group of dedicated craft professionals and artists, takes its inspiration from a similar project, [Year of American Craft 1993](#), that benefitted millions of artists, makers and appreciators. Much has changed in America since 1993, but the practice of making things by hand endures. The crafts built our nation and they sustain it through challenging times. Nationwide programs will honor American makers, then and now, pointing the way to a robust future for the crafts and the country.

Please join us in honoring the handmade during our Semiquincentennial year. For more information about how to become an official partner of or participant in *Handwork 2026*, please contact Jen Ruppman (handwork@craftinamerica.org).



HANDWORK

Celebrating American Craft 2026

Handwork 2026 Lead Partners

- **Craft in America**
- **Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum**

Handwork 2026 Partners (as of January 13, 2025)

- **American Craft Council**
- **Americans for the Arts**
- **Craft Emergency Relief Fund**
- **Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies**
- **Ornament Magazine**
- **PBS**
- **Veterans History Project** pending
- **Windgate Foundation**

Handwork 2026 Participating Organizations (as of January 31, 2025)

- **108 Contemporary** (Tulsa, OK)
- **Adam's Forge** (Simi Valley, CA)
- **African American Craft Initiative** (Smithsonian Center for Folklife & Cultural Heritage) (Washington D.C.)
- **Alfred Ceramic Art Museum** (Alfred, NY)
- **American Museum of Ceramic Art** (Pomona, CA)
- **American Scandinavian Cultural & Historical Foundation** (New York, NY)
- **Arkansas University School of Art and Design** (Little Rock, AR)
- **Arrowmont School of Arts & Crafts** (Gatlinburg, TN)
- **Art Cloth Network** (international)
- **Art Complex Museum** (Duxbury, MA)
- **ArtFields** (Lake City, SC)
- **Arts Idaho** (Boise, ID)
- **Asheville Art Museum** (Asheville, NC)
- **Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums** (national)
- **Bainbridge Island Museum of Art** (Bainbridge Island, WA)
- **Bainbridge BARN** (Bainbridge Island, WA)
- **Baltimore Clayworks** (Baltimore, MD)
- **Baltimore Jewelry Center** (Baltimore, MD)
- **Bard Graduate Center and College** (NY, NY)
- **Belger Arts** (Kansas City, MO)
- **Berea College** (Berea, KY)
- **Blue Ridge National Heritage Area/Blue Ridge Craft Trails** (Asheville, NC)
- **Booth Western Art Museum** (Cartersville, GA)
- **Boston Modern Quilt Guild** (Boston, MA)
- **Brooklyn Metal Works** (Brooklyn, NY)
- **Cabarrus Arts Council** (Concord, NC)
- **Cafesjian Art Trust Museum** (Shoreview, MN)
- **California Fibers** (Southern California)
- **Callanwolde Fine Arts Center** (Atlanta, GA)
- **Center for Craft** (Asheville, NC)
- **Columbia Gorge Museum** (Stevenson, WA)
- **Columbia Museum of Art** (Columbia, SC)
- **Contemporary Craft** (Pittsburgh, PA)
- **Corning Museum of Glass** (Corning, NY)
- **Costume Society of America** (international)
- **Cowee School Arts & Heritage Center** (Franklin, NC)
- **Craft Alliance** (St. Louis, MO)
- **Craft Contemporary** (Los Angeles, CA)
- **Craft in America Center** (Los Angeles, CA)
- **Craft Lake City** (Salt Lake City, UT)
- **CraftNOW Philadelphia** (Philadelphia, PA)
- **Cranbrook Academy of Art & Art Museum** (Bloomfield Hills, MI)
- **Decorative Arts Trust**, (Philadelphia, PA)
- **Denton Maker Center** (Denton, TX)
- **de Saisset Museum** (Santa Clara, CA)
- **Dieu Donné** (Brooklyn, NY)
- **Ernest G. Welch Gallery at Georgia State University** (Atlanta, GA)
- **The Fabric Workshop and Museum** (Philadelphia, PA)
- **Fiber Arts on 4th** (Los Ranchos, NM)
- **Fitton Center for Creative Arts** (Hamilton, OH)
- **Florida CraftArt** (St. Petersburg, FL)
- **Folk Education Association of America/Folk School Alliance** (national)
- **Fresno Museum of Art** (Fresno, CA)
- **Fuller Craft Museum** (Brockton, MA)
- **Gibbes Museum of Art** (Charleston, SC)
- **Grotta House** (Vernon, NJ)
- **Haystack Mountain School of Crafts** (Deer Isle, ME)
- **Heath Ceramics** (San Francisco, CA)
- **Hermitage Museum** (Norfolk, VA)
- **High Museum of Art** (Atlanta, GA)



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- **Houston Center for Contemporary Craft** (Houston, TX)
- **Huntington Beach Art Center** (Huntington Beach, CA)
- **Ilan-Lael Foundation** (Santa Ysabel, CA)
- **International Quilt Museum** (Lincoln, NE)
- **International Polymer Clay Association** (Virginia Beach, VA)
- **Institute of American Indian Arts** (Santa Fe, NM)
- **James E. Lewis Museum of Art** (Baltimore, MD)
- **James Renwick Alliance for Craft** (Washington, D.C.)
- **John C. Campbell Folk School** (Brasstown, NC)
- **John Michael Kohler Arts Center** (Sheboygan, WI)
- **Launch LA** (Los Angeles, CA)
- **Lauren Rogers Museum of Art** (Laurel, MS)
- **League of NH Craftsmen** (Concorde, NH)
- **Lee Gallery (Clemson University)** (Clemson, SC)
- **Lowell's Boat Shop** (Amesbury, MA)
- **Lyndon House Arts Center** (Athens, GA)
- **Mason-Scharfenstein Museum of Art at Piedmont University** (Demorest, GA)
- **Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum** (Mesa, AZ)
- **MidAtlantic Fiber Arts** (national)
- **Mingei Museum** (San Diego, CA)
- **Minnesota Museum of American Art** (St. Paul, MN)
- **Mint Museum** (Charlotte, NC)
- **Motawi Tileworks** (Ann Arbor, MI)
- **Museum for Art in Wood** (Philadelphia, PA)
- **Museum of Arts & Design** (New York, NY)
- **Museum of Craft and Design** (San Francisco, CA)
- **Museum of Design** (Atlanta, GA)
- **Museum of Fine Arts, Boston** (Boston, MA)
- **Museum of Fine Arts, Houston** (Houston, TX)
- **Museum of International Folk Art** (Santa Fe, NM)
- **National Academy of Needlearts** (national)
- **National Basketry Organization** (Gloucester, MA)
- **National Museum of American Art (Smithsonian American Art Museum)** (Washington, D.C.)
- **National Museum of Women in the Arts** (Washington, D.C.)
- **North Bennet Street School** (Boston, MA)
- **North Country Studio Workshops** (North Bennington, VT)
- **North House Folk School** (Grand Marais, MN)
- **Northwest Designer Craftartists** (Seattle, WA)
- **Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art** (Biloxi, MS)
- **Open Works** (Baltimore, MD)
- **Ozark Folk Center State Park** (Mountain View, AR)
- **Palo Alto Art Center** (Palo Alto, CA)
- **Paul Revere House/Paul Revere Memorial Association** (Boston, MA)
- **Paradise City Arts Festivals** (Northampton, MA)
- **Peabody Essex Museum** (Salem, MA)
- **Penland School of Craft** (Bakersville, NC)
- **Peters Valley School of Craft** (Sandyston, NJ)
- **Philadelphia Museum of Art Craft Show** (Philadelphia, PA)
- **Pilchuck Glass School** (Stanwood, WA)
- **Pittsburgh Glass Center** (Pittsburgh, PA)
- **Pocosin Arts School of Fine Craft** (Columbia, NC)
- **Pu'uhonua Society** (Oahu, HI)
- **The Quilt Index (Michigan State University Museum of Art)** (East Lansing, MI)
- **Quilts of Valor** (USA)
- **R & Company** (NY, NY)
- **Racine Art Museum** (Racine, WI)
- **Red Lodge Clay Center** (Red Lodge, MT)
- **Red Stone Glen Fiber Arts Center** (York Haven, PA)
- **Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture** (Baltimore, MD)
- **Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum** (Washington, D.C.)
- **Robert C. Williams Museum of Papermaking** (Atlanta, GA)
- **Riverside Art Museum & The Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art & Culture** (Riverside, CA)
- **The Rockwell Museum** (Corning, NY)
- **Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation for Arts and Crafts** (Rancho Cucamonga, CA)
- **San Diego Craft Collective** (San Diego, CA)
- **San Diego State University Applied Design** (San Diego, CA)
- **San Francisco Airport Museum** (San Francisco, CA)



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- **San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles** (San Jose, CA)
- **School of Art and Design, Arkansas University** (Fayetteville, AR)
- **Scripps College, Ruth Chandler Williamson Gallery** (Claremont, CA)
- **Signature Contemporary Craft Gallery** (Atlanta, GA)
- **Silver River Center for Chair Caning** (Asheville, NC)
- **Smithsonian Women's Committee (Smithsonian Craft Show)** (Washington D.C.)
- **SNAG/Metalsmith** (Eugene, OR)
- **Society of Arts & Crafts** (Boston, MA)
- **South Carolina State Museum** (Columbia, SC)
- **Southern Highland Craft Guild** (Asheville, NC)
- **Studio Art Quilt Associates** (national)
- **Sumter County Gallery of Art** (Sumter, SC)
- **Surface Design Association** (Albuquerque, NM)
- **Textile Arts Los Angeles** (Los Angeles, CA)
- **Textile Center of Minnesota** (Minneapolis, MN)
- **Touchstone Center for Crafts** (Farmington, PA)
- **Uhuru Quilters Guild** (District Heights, MD)
- **Visions Museum of Textile Art** (San Diego, CA)
- **Waldorf Handwork Educators** (international)
- **Wayne Art Center** (Wayne, PA)
- **Weavers Guild of Greater Baltimore** (Baltimore, MD)
- **Wharton Esherick Museum**, (Malvern, PA)
- **Women of Color Quilting Network** (national)

Handwork 2026 Advisors

- **Polly Allen**, Arts advocate and fiber artist, non-profit board volunteer: Penland School of Craft, Craft Emergency Relief Fund, National Basketry Organization, League of New Hampshire Craftsmen, Society of Arts and Crafts, North Country Studio Workshops
- **Stuart Ashman**, Gallerist, former Cabinet Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs, former Director of the International Folk Art Market and the Museum of Latin American Art
- **Barry Bergey**, Retired NEA Director of Folk and Traditional Arts
- **Cornelia Carey**, Artist Advocate and former Executive Director of the Craft Emergency Relief Fund
- **Teri Greeves**, Kiowa bead artist, Co-curator of the Hearts of Our People exhibition
- **Dr. Leslie King Hammond**, Artist, curator and art historian, Founding Director of the Center for Race and Culture at the Maryland Institute College of Art
- **Robyn Hollingshead**, former Managing Program Director for the Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies, Member of the Craft in America Board
- **Robert Lynch**, American arts administrator and former President and Chief Executive Officer of Americans for the Arts, American Craft Council Board Member
- **Dr. Carolyn Mazloomi**, Curator, quilter, author, art historian and advocate for presenting African American quilts
- **Preston Singletary**, Glass Artist, Tlingit
- **Dr. Marilyn Stewart**, Emerita Professor of Art Education at Kutztown University of Pennsylvania and Author of the elementary and middle school textbook series, Explorations in Art and Experience Art, Author of the education guides for the Craft in America PBS series
- **Jason S. Ordaz**, Communications Director, Institute of American Indian Art
- **Wendy Maruyama**, Artist, Furniture Maker, Educator

Handwork 2026 Planning Committee

- **Harriett Green**, Art Consultant and American Craft Council Board Member
- **Lois Jecklin**, former Executive President of the Visiting Artist Series, a nonprofit organization presenting artists in residence, then owner/director, Jecklin Associates, representing artists and composers worldwide
- **Jean W. McLaughlin**, Arts advocate and artist, nonprofit volunteer, former Executive Director of Penland School of Craft
- **Ann Pifer**, Executive Director, AdoptAClassroom.org, and Board Chair, Minnesota Museum of American Art



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- **Lynn Pollard**, Fiber artist, American Craft Council Trustee, Hambidge Board Member
- **Carol Sauvion**, Founder and Executive Director, Craft in America, a Peabody Award winning documentary series in its 15th Season on PBS
- **Consuelo Jimenez Underwood**, Artist, fiber artist and weaver, retired Professor of Spatial Arts, San Jose State University