



Smithsonian Affiliate



Elizabeth Maurland (Decorah, Iowa), *Teapot*.

***Dubuque Museum of Art Presents
Handmade: Craft Invitational***

***Invitational Exhibition Featuring 50+ Works by Leading
Craft Artists Opens June 2***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 14, 2018 (DUBUQUE, IA) – They forge metals into one-of-a-kind tools, transform textiles into objects of fashion, and turn earthen materials like clay and wood into dazzling works of functional art.

The [Dubuque Museum of Art \(DuMA\)](#) announced its summer exhibition today, and it's all about craft.

Opening in DuMA's Falb Family Gallery, on June 2, the *Handmade Craft Invitational* includes works by a select group of regionally-based craftspeople working in ceramic, wood, metal, glass, leather, and fiber arts. The more than 50 original works on display push the boundaries of skill, sophistication, and artistic concept, with an emphasis on functional works and utilitarian objects.

The exhibition--the first regional survey of contemporary craft organized by the DuMA--is also intended to bring greater recognition to craft artists at a time when there is a resurgence of interest in skill and craftsmanship. The Craft Invitational compliments the DuMA Biennial, which takes place every other year and generally highlights traditional fine art media such as painting, sculpture and photography.

DuMA Associate Curator and Registrar Stacy Peterson organized *Handmade* with the assistance of ceramic artist Delores Fortuna and textile artist Maureen Bardusk, both of Galena, Illinois; and boot-maker Paul Opperman of Dubuque.

"With this exhibition, the museum was interested in exploring functional craft--objects that have artistic conception as well as a practical and physical purpose," said Peterson. "*Handmade* underscores the variety of accessible art forms that can easily be incorporated into our lives."

Peterson added, "We will also explore the life of an object, from the creation process to how the object goes from maker to user to collector. Living with art is possible in many ways that are familiar, fun, and enriching."

Many of the 20+ artists featured in *Handmade* are represented by galleries and have been shown in leading fine art and craft fairs and juried exhibitions. At least two artists have been selected for inclusion in the Renwick Invitational, the Smithsonian's prestigious biennial exhibition of craft.

Exhibiting artists (place of permanent residence) include:

- Barbara Briggs (Hanover, Illinois)
- Ann Marie Cianciolo (Milwaukee, Wisconsin)
- Paul Eshelman (Elizabeth, Illinois)
- Mary Frisbee Johnson (Oregon; formerly Cedar Falls, Iowa)
- Amara Hark Weber (St Paul, Minnesota)
- Robin Kittleson (Geneva, Illinois)
- Aaron Laux (Madison, Wisconsin)
- Patricia Lehnhardt (Galena, Illinois)
- George Lowe (Decorah, Iowa)
- Aaron Macsai (Morton Grove, Illinois)
- Kelly Marshall (Minneapolis, Minnesota)
- Elizabeth Maurland (Decorah, Iowa)
- J.P. Miller (Fairbank, Iowa)
- Martha Monson Lowe (Decorah, Iowa)
- Karen Morris (Minneapolis, Minnesota)
- Barry Newstat (Western Springs, Illinois)
- Paul Opperman (Dubuque, Iowa)
- Gina Pannorfi (Chicago, Illinois)
- Luke Proctor (Mt Horeb, Wisconsin)

- Connie Roberts (Iowa City, Iowa)
- Sam Schold (Sherrard, Illinois)
- Trish Stevenson (Black Earth, Wisconsin)
- Laura Weber (Cedarburg, Wisconsin)

A variety of programming is planned over the course of the exhibition, including technical demonstrations, panel discussions, studio tours, films, and educational opportunities for artists covering business-related topics in the arts.

More details will be announced as they are available on the museum's website (www.dbqart.com) and on [Facebook](#).

Handmade: Craft Invitational continues through September 9, 2018.

About the Dubuque Museum of Art

The Dubuque Museum of Art (DuMA), founded in 1874 and accredited by the American Alliance of Museums in 2004, is Iowa's oldest cultural institution. Named a national affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution in 2016, DuMA's mission is to excite, engage and serve diverse communities within the Tri-State area through our collections, exhibitions and educational programs. We connect generations of people to their cultural heritage and exceptional art.

DuMA is located across from Washington Park in historic downtown Dubuque at 7th and Locust Streets. Museum hours are Tuesday–Friday 10:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M., Saturday & Sunday 1:00 P.M.-4:00 P.M. The museum is closed on Mondays. Daily admission rates are: \$6 Adults, \$5 Seniors, and \$3 College/University Students. The museum is free on Thursdays, and those 18 and younger receive free admission every day, thanks to Prudential Financial. Website: www.dbqart.com



Aaron Macsai (Morton Grove, Illinois), *Fountain Pin*.