



fullerCRAFT  
museum™

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT:** Titi Ngwenya (508) 588-6000 x118, [tngwenya@fullercraft.org](mailto:tngwenya@fullercraft.org)  
(Brockton, Mass.) Fuller Craft Museum, New England's home for contemporary craft  
Museum Hours: Tuesday – Sunday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, Thursday 5:00 – 9:00 pm

## FULLER CRAFT MUSEUM PRESENTS

### **Playa Made: The Jewelry of Burning Man** **February 11, 2017 – June 4, 2017**

Reception: Saturday, February 11, 2017 from 2:00 – 5:00 pm with Gallery Talk and Panel  
Fuller Craft will host an opening reception to celebrate both *Playa Made: The Jewelry of Burning Man* and *John Bisbee: Material Obsession*. At 2:00 pm, John Bisbee will give a gallery talk. At 3:00 pm, join us for a panel discussion “Makers’ Paradise: Exploring Burning Man Jewelry” including guest curator Christine Kristen, Karen Christians, George Post, and Sumner Silverman. There will be a book signing with Christine Kristen, Karen Christians, and George Post. The reception will feature art cars by Howard Davis and other “burners,” as well as a mini-man designed by Doug Ruska. The reception is included with admission fee. Panel: \$7 (\$15 Nonmembers)

High Resolution images are found at:

<http://fullercraft.org/press/playa-made-the-jewelry-of-burning-man/>

Adornment, memento—both words seem too small to capture the powerful resonance of an experience that is intensely personal and yet shared abundantly with 70,000 strangers. However, the jewelry does capture this experience, and that is the marvel of *Playa Made: The Jewelry of Burning Man*, Fuller Craft Museum's newest exhibition. This is the very first jewelry exhibition to celebrate the meaningful objects and makers that not only commemorate the Burning Man festival, but also objectify its ethos (creativity, interactivity, radical self expression, collaboration, meaningful connection). The exhibition was sparked by the publication of Karen Christians and Christine Kristen's book “Jewelry of Burning Man.”

The creative and communal spirit as well as the symbols of Burning Man are finely crafted into countless jeweled rings, pressed glass coins, lakebed-clay charms, inlaid wood pendants, intricate necklaces, and other pieces of jewelry—all given freely during the festival without the

expectation of compensation. This practice is accordance with the second of Burning Man's Ten Principles—Gifting. The exhibition includes about 175 pieces and about 57 artists. The materials used in the creation of the jewelry range from the precious metals and stones used by Amber Marie Bently and Ken Kushner, to the stamped hard drive of Steve Curl and Leo Villareal's LED lights, to black basalt rock and the very earth of the playa. The exhibition will include marvelous photos by George Post that capture the spirit of Burning Man.

## **The Playa**

A playa is a flat, dry desert basin. For this annual, week-long art festival in the Black Rock Desert, Nevada, a temporary city stretching 7 square miles is erected on a prehistoric desert basin, the largest dry lakebed in North America. A large-scale photo mural of the Playa and descriptions of the makers and objects are included in the exhibition to demonstrate the magnitude of the Burning Man.

## **Populism and Art**

Art-making is an integral part of Burning Man. Over the past 31 years, Black Rock City has become the world's largest outdoor art gallery, featuring hundreds of installations scattered across the playa. The no-holds-barred event attracts artists and makers from around the world, many of whom spend the bulk of their year developing work bound for Burning Man. Reflecting a theme set each year by founder Larry Harvey, the art is a vital part of the event, and it is everywhere—on the open playa, in the camping areas, in the Center Café, along the trash fence that marks the boundaries of the city, in the small participant-run airport, along the entrance road, in the air, and around the Burning Man effigy itself.

Anyone can present what they've created without fear of judgment, competition, censorship, or valuation. The art is characterized by interactivity; it is accessible, hands-on, and meant to be touched, climbed, and played with, in order to provide intense, intimate experiences not usually available in gallery or museum settings.

## **The Ten Principles of Burning Man**

The 10 Principles of Burning Man were written by Larry Harvey in 2004 as a guide for the burgeoning worldwide network of Regional Satellite events, in order to codify the ethical structure that has made Burning Man work so well for so many years. They are: Radical Inclusion, Gifting, Decommodification, Radical Self-reliance, Radical Self-expression, Communal Effort, Civic Responsibility, Leaving No Trace, Participation, and Immediacy.

## **Exhibition Team**

**Christine Kristen (LadyBee), Curator of *Playa Made: The Jewelry of Burning Man***

Christine Kristen (aka Ladybee) was Burning Man's art curator from 1999 to 2008, where she dealt with all things visual and aesthetic, including developing the art grant program and

working with the funded artists. She has written articles for Leonardo Journal, Raw Vision, and the Burning Man Journal, and is the editor and co-author of Jewelry of Burning Man. She is currently the archivist, and also manages the art collection at the San Francisco office. She has an MFA in sculpture from the Art Institute of Chicago.

### **Karen Christians, Metalsmith and Jewelry Designer**

Karen Christians holds a BFA with from the Massachusetts College of Art. In 1998, she founded the nonprofit Metalwerx: School for Jewelry and the Metal Arts in Waltham, MA, and in 2012, the Jewelry Shop at Artisans Asylum in Somerville, MA. She teaches nationally, lectures around the country, and is published in many professional and technical magazines. Karen is the author of two books, Making the Most of Your Flex-Shaft and Jewelry of Burning Man. Currently she is working on her third book, Jewelry of Star Trek. Karen has a studio in Lowell, MA and lives in Waltham with her husband Dave and two excellent cats. You can find her at [www.karenchristians.com](http://www.karenchristians.com) and reach her at [Karen@karenchristians.com](mailto:Karen@karenchristians.com).

### **George Post, Photographer**

A freelance photographer, writer, and teacher, George Post has made photography his lifelong passion. Throughout his four decades as a freelance photographer, George has specialized in the photo-documentation of fine arts, hand-made crafts and jewelry. After a life-changing expedition to Burning Man in 1991, he has returned every year since then to photograph the people, art, fire, and the magical desert light that make Burning Man a unique world-class event.

### **Current Exhibitions at Fuller Craft**

*John Bisbee: Material Obsession*

December 17, 2016 – March 26, 2017

*Bartram's Boxes Remix*

January 21, 2017 - April 16, 2017

*Uncommon Exposures: Photography in Craft Based Media*

October 8, 2016 – January 22, 2017

*Object Lessons: Selections from Fuller Craft Museum's Permanent Collection,*  
Ongoing

*Cary Wolinsky: Fiber of Life*

On view until June 25, 2017

*What Remains: Wooden Quilt Sculptures of Laura Petrovich-Cheney*

On view until November 12, 2017

## **Coming Soon to Fuller Craft**

*SMARTS (Southeastern Massachusetts Arts Collaborative)*

February 5 – 26, 2017

*Playa Made: The Jewelry of Burning Man*

February 11 – June 4, 2017

*Living Traditions: The Handwork of Plymouth CRAFT*

March 18 – June 25, 2017

*Ellen Schiffman: The 52 Box Project*

March 25 – July 31, 2017

*Future Retrieval: Permanent Spectacle*

April 15 – October 1, 2017

*Circular Abstractions: Bull's-Eye Quilts*

May 13 – October 22, 2017

*Amber Cowan: Re/Collection*

June 24 – October 8, 2017

## **About Fuller Craft Museum**

Fuller Craft Museum, New England's only museum of contemporary craft, is dedicated to the objects, ideas, and insight that inspire both patrons and artists to explore life through the art of contemporary craft. Fuller Craft Museum is located at 455 Oak St. in Brockton, MA. The Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, with free admission for all Thursdays from 5:00 – 9:00 pm. Admission is \$8 adults, \$5 seniors and students, free for members and children 12 and under. For more information on Fuller Craft exhibitions and events please visit [www.fullercraft.org](http://www.fullercraft.org) or call 508.588.6000.

Fuller Craft Museum, New England's home for contemporary craft.