



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(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

Playtime in the Making

May 19 – September 16, 2018

Reception and Lecture May 20, 2018, 2:00 – 5:00 pm

High Resolution images are found at: <https://fullercraft.org/playtime-in-the-making/>

Fuller Craft Museum is pleased to present *Playtime in the Making*, a multimedia art installation that explores the vital role of free play in creative thinking. The inventive project was developed by artist team Tommy Simpson, Karen LaFleur, Marlow Shami, and Nancy Tucker, with guest artists Jim Fawcett and Randy Gilman. The collaborative came together to investigate the questions: What does play look like, and where does it reside within the creative process?

Their response—*Playtime in the Making*—takes a “the more you look, the more you see” approach, with fanciful elements that guide viewers through the four stages of the creative thinking process: preparation, incubation, illumination, and verification. Visitors are invited to explore the installation from beginning to end, following the clues to make connections and unlock new portals to the imagination. From ladders that climb to colorful stars, to seafaring vessels, to fanciful creatures, the tableau sparks curiosity and promotes learning through discovery.

Playtime in the Making artists firmly believe that we are all creative beings. Together, we ask you to take a chance and begin. Play with possibilities. Welcome that “eureka” moment. And finally, share your experience and findings with others.

Fuller Craft Museum thanks the Hamilton Company Charitable Foundation and Caroline R. Graboys Fund for their generous support of *Playtime in the Making*. We further acknowledge the talented artist team who brought *Playtime in the Making* to Fuller Craft. They continue to dazzle us with their artistic skill, collaborative spirit, and playful sense of adventure.

About the Artists

Tommy Simpson's artwork transcends craftsmanship, fine art, and whimsy. He is an "imaginist" who has worked in nearly every medium, including woodworking, painting, printmaking, clay, woodcarving, bookmaking, jewelry, and even prose. In each work of art, the artist puzzles together his personal and cultural references into a signature blend of joyfulness and subtle commentary. "The ultimate goal," Tommy says, "is to bring the artwork to life, so that the viewer can identify the human spirit behind the work, and experience its poetry."

<http://www.tommysimpson.net/>

Karen LaFleur creates narrative digital paintings. Her artwork consists of a multi-layered computer image embedded with a micro-story written by the artist. She combines verbal-visual expressions into an all-inclusive medium via the computer. Her artwork has been exhibited nationally, including the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC, and the Cape Cod Museum of Art, MA. Her work can be found in many private collections worldwide.

Marlow Shami is a video/digital artist with an eye for sensory attractions based in nature and the human experience. Her process of making art is one of taking tiny-rich steps towards the art of looking closer. She listens, trusts, pauses, leaps, stops, and then looks again—each time collecting and composing the wonders of our world into an interconnected visual expression. There is an attention and care in her photographic encounters that highlight for the viewer the complexities of our environment and witness the richness of our unique human connection to the natural world. By compiling hundreds of images and videos into an expressive artwork, Shami weaves together the essence of her subject and builds with spellbinding agility a pathway for the viewer—to stop, pause, and wonder. As a CBS news videographer-editor, Shami was nominated for a New England Emmy and the Matrix Award. In 2001, she earned a Masters of Science in the field of Integrated Ecology—Applied Eco Psychology. This lifetime interest in nature and its healing power informs Shami's artwork and inspires her talks and workshop. Her artwork is exhibited nationally and included in private collections.

Nancy Tucker is a fingerstyle guitarist with a flair for unusual and kinetic compositions using every part of the guitar. From instrumentals about tipsy grasshoppers to a lively musical interpretation of a recalcitrant washing machine, to a cacophony of insect sounds blended into a rhythmic symphony, she approaches the guitar as if it were a miniature playground,

exploring every possible sound from the strings, body, pegs, raw wood, and even the strap. Nancy is the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award, the Connecticut Songwriter of the Year Award, Outstanding Artistic Achievement Award, and the Outstanding Achievement as a Singer Songwriter Award, all from the Connecticut Songwriter's Association. She placed second and fourth in two East Coast finger-style guitar competitions and received the Independent Musician of the Year Award in 2004. In addition, her music for children has earned six National Awards. She has recorded and released nine of her own CDs. She has been performing and recording music and comedy professionally for over three decades.

Current Exhibitions:

2018 Biennial Members Exhibition
April 14 – October 7, 2018

Tricks of the Trade: Illusions in Craft-Based Media
March 31 – November 18, 2018

Revolution in the Making: The Pussyhat Project
January 20 – May 20, 2018

Brother Thomas: Seeking the Sublime
February 3 – May 13, 2018

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

Upcoming Exhibitions:

Playtime in the Making
May 19 – September 16, 2018

FORTitude: The Art of Play
May 19 – September 16, 2018

Objects of Use and Beauty: Design and Craft in Japanese Culinary Tools
June 2 – October 28, 2018

Grounds for Play: Sculptures That Excite the Imagination
June 23 – October 21, 2018

Uneasy Beauty: Discomfort in Contemporary Adornment
October 6, 2018 – April 21, 2019

Context: Language, Media, and Meaning from the Surface Design Association
October 27, 2018 – February 24, 2019

Mano-Made: New Expressions in Craft by Latino Artists
December 15, 2018 – September 8, 2019

Donna Dodson: Zodiac
February 2 – May 19, 2019

Rooted, Revived, Reinvented: The History of American Basketry
May 18 – August 18, 2019

Human Impact: Stories of the Opioid Epidemic
September 28, 2019 – March 15, 2020

Striking Gold: Fuller at 50
September 7, 2019 – April 5, 2020

About Fuller Craft Museum

Fuller Craft Museum, New England's only museum of contemporary craft, is dedicated to the objects, ideas, and insights 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 \$10 adults, \$8 seniors and \$5 students, free for members and children 12 and under. For more information on Fuller Craft exhibitions and events please visit www.fullercraft.org or call 508.588.6000.

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