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FULLER CRAFT MUSEUM PRESENTS

***Stephanie Cole: Secular Cathedral***

January 25 – October 25, 2020

Reception: Sunday, April 5, 1:00 – 3:00 pm  
featuring a gallery talk at 1:30 pm

(Brockton, Mass.)

High Resolution Images are available via Dropbox here <https://tinyurl.com/w42fgqf>

On Massachusetts's North Shore, artist Stephanie Cole has been quietly working out of her Rockport home for over forty years. Her introspective work largely consists of assemblages, conceived in a range of media and layered with found objects collected by Cole over seven decades. From the minute to the monumental, these affecting bits—and the fully realized forms—symbolize the many phases of the artist's life and the complex arc of her spiritual journey.

The eighteen works in *Stephanie Cole: Secular Cathedral* focus upon sacred spaces and religious iconography. Cole began composing sculptures in the 1980s with all manner of things—ceramic shards, figurines, household objects, repurposed clothing, museum tags, seashells and natural materials, discarded jewelry, and countless other artifacts. She explains, “My making ‘things’ using whatever was at hand enabled me to speak artistically in ways paintings alone couldn’t. Because of that, I now ‘paint with stuff.’”

Cole's work evokes both her physical and spiritual selves, and this duality is evidenced throughout *Stephanie Cole: Secular Cathedral*. The stained-glass panels resemble stately church windows, yet they are rooted in domestic themes. Her lush mosaics hold space as altars, each one exalting an earthly person, place, or thing. There is a vestment adorned with clothing labels and a reliquary containing the artist's DNA. Even the jovial Key West dovetails the mortal and religion realms, its shell-encased arms raised in a cross-shaped gesture.

The works on view in *Secular Cathedral* are deeply personal to Cole and reveal a great deal about what and who she holds dear. Yet for all their autobiographical subject matter, the poignant sculptures universally resonate. While viewers may not directly share her memories, all can glean inspiration from a life well lived and well loved.

Curated by Beth McLaughlin, Fuller Craft Museum Chief Curator of Exhibitions and Collections

### **Current Exhibitions:**

*Tending the Fires: Recent Acquisitions in Clay*  
August 17, 2019 – May 23, 2020

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

*Gleam: Golden Selections from the Permanent Collection*  
September 7, 2019 – February 2, 2020

*Human Impact: Stories of the Opioid Epidemic*  
September 28, 2019 – May 3, 2020

*Maine Crafts Association: Artists in the Studios*  
August 17, 2019 – TBD

### **Upcoming Exhibitions**

*Stephanie Cole: Secular Cathedral*  
January 25 – October 25, 2020

*2020 Biennial Members Exhibition*  
February 8 – November 8, 2020

*Serious Bling: Radical Jewelry Makeover—The Artist Project*  
February 15 – April 5, 2020

*James Grashow: The Great Monkey Project*  
February 15 – September 13, 2020

*Another Crossing: Artists Revisit the Mayflower Voyage*  
May 2 – September 20, 2020

*Making History: The Art of 17th Century Boatbuilding*  
May 30 – November 29, 2020

*Michelle Samour: Mapping Borders and Boundaries*  
September 26, 2020 – March 21, 2021

*Particle & Wave: PaperClay Illuminated*  
October 17, 2020 – April 11, 2021

*Tamara Kositanovsky: Savage Legacy*  
December 19, 2020 – May 16, 2021

*American Clay: Modern Potters, Traditional Pots*

January 30 – May 2, 2021

### **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 Street in Brockton, Massachusetts. 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](http://www.fullercraft.org) or call 508.588.6000.

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