

For Immediate Release

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Michelle Samour: Mapping Borders and Boundaries On View at Fuller Craft Museum

*New England's Home for Contemporary Craft's Latest Exhibition Highlights
Artist's Middle Eastern Heritage*

BROCKTON, Mass. (March 3, 2021) – Enjoy a lush exploration of an artist's Middle Eastern heritage, most notably her inherited history as part of the Palestinian diaspora with Michelle Samour's series Mapping Borders and Boundaries. As part of Fuller Craft Museum's Winter 2021 exhibitions, visitors will explore each piece within the Atrium Gallery, beginning on March 2, 2021.

The luminous artworks—composed in an array of media such as foil, paint, wood, pearl, and beeswax—feature a complex process of cartographical reflection and repetition designed by Samour to break down territorial constructs into geometric abstraction. By articulating the forms with this distinctive visual vocabulary, Samour interrogates the politico-geographic concepts of borders, homeland, and exile to ultimately question how much of one's identity is informed by an ancestral past.

Samour's practice examines the crossroads of land, shape, and form through the lens of traditional Palestinian craft including vibrant textiles and opulent shell carving. "Using the tropes of indigenous design that I grew up with—oriental rugs, Palestinian costume, and embroidery, mother of pearl/abalone handiwork—my work celebrates the cultural history of this region while at the same time subversively critiquing it," Samour explains. "I am interested in drawing the viewer into a narrative whose history of conflict contrasts with the work's aesthetic richness."

Michelle Samour has been featured in exhibitions across the globe, including Museum of Modern Art in Strasbourg, France; Kohler Art Center in Sheboygan, WI; Houston Center for Contemporary Craft in Texas; Racine Art Museum in Wisconsin; Fitchburg Art Museum, MA; and deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, MA. Samour has been a Scholar-in-Residence at Tufts European Center in Talloires, France; an Artist-in-Residence at Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Deer Island, ME; Banff Centre, Canada; and P.R.I.N.T. Press in Denton, TX. Samour's work is included in public and private collections, including deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, International Paper Company, and Meditech Corporation.

Located on the spacious grounds at 455 Oak Street in Brockton, Massachusetts, Fuller Craft Museum is New England's home for contemporary craft. Please check the website for updates to our hours of admission. Admission for all guests is by donation only. (Suggested donation

\$12) For more information on Fuller Craft exhibitions and events, please visit www.fullercraft.org or call 508.588.6000.

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CURRENT EXHIBITIONS:

[Particle & Wave: Paper Clay Illuminated](#)

On display until May 30, 2021

Stone and Barstow Galleries

Particle & Wave: Paper Clay Illuminated is a groundbreaking exhibition featuring 45 artists from across the globe who are redefining the potential of the ceramic arts and representing a commitment to their craft. Paper clay, sometimes referred to as fiber clay, is any clay body to which processed cellulose fiber (paper being the most common) has been added. This traveling exhibition provides historical information about the evolution of paper clay as an artistic medium as well as showcases the amazing diversity of form and expression that exists in today's growing global community of paper clay artists.

[American Clay: Modern Potters, Traditional Pots](#)

On display until November 7, 2021

D. Tarlow Gallery

American Clay: Modern Potters, Traditional Pots examines the practice of historical ceramics in a contemporary context through the work of several artists intimately inspired by traditional styles. Objects on display will explore such issues as the interplay between historical fidelity and personal inspiration, evolving definitions of "tradition bearers," and the influence of technical, economic, and educational forces on conventional approaches in clay. Guest curated by Redware potter Stephen Earp, *American Clay* features contemporary work inspired by such practices as Redware, Delftware, Maiolica, Rockingham, and Art Nouveau.

[Makers and Mentors: The Art and Life of Snow Farm](#)

On display until July 4, 2021

Community Gallery

This exhibition celebrates the impact of Snow Farm: The New England Craft Program (a nonprofit residential craft program in Williamsburg, MA) on the field of contemporary craft. *Makers and Mentors: The Art and Life of Snow Farm* will highlight the work of multiple generations of artists who have been part of Snow Farm, including teachers who have influenced those in the studios as well as makers whom the organization has greatly impacted. The historical development of Snow Farm also will be highlighted, educating museum visitors about the institution and how it has been a pioneering force in the realm of studio craft.

[Michelle Samour: Mapping Borders and Boundaries](#)

On display until September 19, 2021

Atrium Gallery

Mapping Borders and Boundaries is a series of works by Michelle Samour that appeals to the artist's ancestral past as a means of further engaging in the politico-geographic concepts of homeland, exile, and diaspora. Through cartographical repetition and reflection, Samour maps the historical (dis)possession of Palestine, ultimately decimating borders, boundaries and territorial constructs into geometric abstraction. The work critically investigates the meaning of shape/land/form within the guise

of traditional Palestinian craft, including the vibrant colors of textiles and opulent Mother-of-Pearl carving.

[Elliot Kayser: Year of the Pig](#)

On display until January 2022

Outdoor Courtyard

In 2019, the City of Boston presented Elliott Kayser's *Year of the Pig* on the Rose Kennedy Greenway to celebrate the Chinese Zodiac Year of the Pig. The public art installation consisted of eight ceramic swines hidden along the length of The Greenway, leading pedestrians on a treasure hunt towards Chinatown. With the sculptures, Kayser hopes to reconnect people to a shared agricultural heritage and promote sustained environmental, economic, and community health. The Fuller Craft installation exhibits six of the original eight pigs, bringing them together in a new home.

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About Fuller Craft Museum

[Fuller Craft Museum](#), New England's home for contemporary craft, offers expansive opportunities to discover the world of contemporary craft. By exploring the leading edge of craft through exhibitions, collections, education, and public programs, we challenge perceptions and build appreciation of the material world. Our purpose is to inspire, stimulate, and enrich an ever-expanding community.