



Crafting Conservative

October 10, 2021 – January 3, 2022

Artwork Entry Deadline: December 31, 2020

Fuller Craft Museum invites craft practitioners of all levels, from hobbyists to studio artists, to submit textile-based work under the theme “Crafting Conservative.” The exhibition, scheduled for October 10, 2021 – January 3, 2022, will be curated by Guest Curator Hinda Mandell along with Fuller Craft’s Chief Curator Beth McLaughlin.

This exhibition will explore “what” and “how” makers create objects with politically conservative messaging or motivation. It will investigate why artists and crafters use their skills to engage with their politics and their values. The selected pieces will likely feature issues relating to abortion, faith, and conservatively-leaning political beliefs.

Eligibility: Open to all artists, crafters, and makers throughout the U.S., of all experience levels, who self-identify as holding “conservative” beliefs or leaning politically conservative. Open to all people working in the traditional fiber arts, including those working with yarn, embroidery, cross-stitch, quilting, felting, rug hooking, paper, basketry, and other fiber media. Hobbyists are encouraged to submit their work. Selected works will fall under the “Crafting Conservative” theme explicitly (as expressed by the piece itself) or abstractly, through the artist’s statement.

Submission Requirements: Group and individual submissions are welcome, as are contributions from nonprofits, political organizations, religious institutions, crafting circles, community groups, and youth centers. Individual artists and groups may submit up to three works for consideration.

Submission Format Requirements:

- Image files: jpeg or tiff, 300 dpi minimum (one per work, details as necessary)
- Image list: artist name, title of work, year of creation, media, dimensions, weight, installation requirements, with name, contact details on the top of the page
- Maker’s statement about the submitted works (no more than 200 words) with name and contact details on the top of the page
- Maker’s bio (no more than 200 words) with name, contact details on the top of the page

Art requirements:

- All submitted works must use textiles either exclusively or have a strong textile component, drawing upon the “social fabric” as a metaphor reflecting the way people weave themselves into their communities and political systems through their beliefs.

- All works must come ready to hang and/or prepped for display, e.g. include a hanging sleeve, “D-rings,” or other hanging mechanism.
- Due to the contemporary nature of this exhibit, only work created from 2015 (the start of the last presidential campaign season) to the present will be considered.
- All works must fall under the “Crafting Conservative” theme.
- Costs associated with delivery and return of artwork to be paid by artists.

Please email all submission materials, as listed above, to Charlie Pratt (cpratt@fullercraft.org), Exhibitions Manager at Fuller Craft Museum, and Guest Curator Hinda Mandell (hbmgt@rit.edu) by December 31, 2020. Questions regarding the exhibition can be directed to Guest Curator Hinda Mandell. Questions about Fuller Craft Museum can be directed to Exhibitions Manager Charlie Pratt.

Curator Bios

Hinda Mandell is associate professor in the School of Communication at RIT in New York, and is editor of *Crafting Dissent: Handicraft as Protest from the American Revolution to the Pussyhats* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2019); co-curator and co-editor of *Crafting Democracy: Fiber Arts and Activism* (RIT Press, 2019); a co-editor of *Nasty Women and Bad Hombres: Gender and Race in the 2016 US Presidential Election* (University of Rochester Press, 2018); the author of *Sex Scandals, Gender and Power in Contemporary American Politics* (Praeger, 2017) and co-editor of *Scandal in a Digital Age* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016). Mandell’s website is omghinda.com, and she’s on Instagram: [@crochetactivism](https://www.instagram.com/crochetactivism). Mandell is passionate about organizing crowd-created yarn installations in public spaces connected to the history of a region’s social-reform movements.

Beth C. McLaughlin is Chief Curator of Exhibitions and Collections at Fuller Craft Museum in Brockton, Massachusetts. Beth has held leadership and curatorial roles in the arts and museum fields for over 25 years at institutions across the U.S., including Fuller Craft Museum, Oakland Museum of California, and DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum. She has curated over 45 exhibitions and has served as a juror/adjudicator for many cultural organizations, including American Craft Council, Fiber Art Now Excellence in Fibers, Massachusetts Cultural Council, and the City of Worcester. Beth has been published in several books and periodicals, such as *Crafting Democracy: Fiber Arts and Activism*, *Fiber Art Now*, the *Decorative Arts Society Newsletter*, and *American Craft Magazine*. Ms. McLaughlin is passionate about expanding awareness of the craft field, promoting the makers, and exploring the transformative powers of handmade objects.