



fuller**CRAFT**
museum™

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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

(413): Pioneering Western Massachusetts

August 20 – November 27, 2016

Curated by Beth McLaughlin, Chief Curator of Exhibitions and Collections

Featured Artists: JoAnn Kelly Castos, Mark Shapiro, Mara Superior, Josh Simpson, and Silas Kopf

Fall Exhibitions Reception is Sunday, September 11, 2016, 2:00 – 5:00 pm and will include three exhibitions (413): Pioneering Western Massachusetts; Metamorphosis: The Art of Altered Books; and New Sole of the Old Machine: Steampunk Brockton, Reimagining the City of Shoes.

High Resolution images are found at:

<http://fullercraft.org/press/413-pioneering-western-massachusetts/>

413): Pioneering the Western Massachusetts will explore the works and careers of five makers who have been responsible for the development of western Massachusetts's internationally renowned craft community: Josh Simpson (glass), Mark Shapiro (ceramics), Silas Kopf (woodworking), JoAnn Kelly Castos (baskets), and Mara Superior (ceramics). The creative community and rural environment of Western Massachusetts offers opportunities for makers that are unlike those found anywhere else, and those featured in (413) have played a significant role in the region's creative development. And for all those included in the exhibition, the bucolic setting and open creative community offers a distinct sense of place that is evident in their work.

About the Artists

Josh Simpson

Lives and works on farm in Shelburne Falls, MA since 1976

Awarded Niche Magazine Humanitarian award for leadership in craft community

Claims natural surroundings influence his work

Brought many glass artists to region to work with him over the years

A longtime supporter of community arts, Simpson is a silent partner in Snow Farm and was instrumental in starting its glass blowing program Snow Farm, the New England Craft Program. In 1985, he co-founded and was also the first president of the Craft Emergency Relief Fund, a national foundation that has helped many hundreds of artists survive personal crises, such as Hurricanes Katrina and Irene.

"I live among the hills of Western Massachusetts. The landscape and sky here is inspiration for much of the glass that I make. From where I sit at my bench I can see more than 50 miles down the valley. There are days when the drama of the ever-changing view down the valley, thunderstorms, snow squalls, clouds, sunlight and the changing seasons make it hard for me to work!

There is no light pollution here. At night I have a perfect view of the sky and because I often have to adjust my glass furnaces at totally odd hours, I am sometimes rewarded by the most amazing views of the night sky. Aurora Borealis, the Milky Way, constellations, lightening, satellites, the Space Station... it's all there. It's taken me more than 40 years to configure my studio so that it's exactly the way I want it. It is probably one of the best-equipped glass **facilities in the world**, and it's perfect for me to create the glass that I'm known for."

Mark Shapiro

Moved to Worthington MA in 1986 from NYC

Bought property with rich history: farmhouse was birthplace of Russell Conwell, turn-of-the-century preacher and educator and founder of Temple University in Philadelphia. It had been a stop on the Underground Railroad during Conwell's childhood, and he remembered John Brown and Frederick Douglass staying at the house.

When building his kiln in 1986, he dug up a shard of a gray salt-glazed four-gallon crock that happened to have been made only about 15 miles from his home and studio, at the middle of the last century. This discovery led Shapiro to consider pots that were made, bought, used, broken and disposed of within a specific region and the connection this implies between the community of users and makers. It also led to his decision to move and restore the old shed (the one where fugitive slaves had slept) for use as a gallery to welcome local people at the pottery, and prompted a deeper interest in early New England potters and their wares.

Takes on apprentices and set up a cooperative studio

Built kiln with Michael Kline and Sam Taylor - No schooling, learned by working together

Has brought many potters to the area for kiln firing: Louise Harter, Wayne Fuerst, Keith Kreeger, Scott Norris, a weaver and writer, Ellen Huie, Chuck DeWolfe, Fergus Moore, Steve Theberge, Michael McCarthy, Maya Machin, Daniel Garretson, and Jeffrey Lipton.

JoAnn Kelly Catsos

JoAnn Kelly Catsos is an award-winning black ash splint basketmaker and teacher from Western Massachusetts. JoAnn's designs are influenced by traditional Shaker and New England splint basketry, and woven on molds made with help from her woodworker husband, Steve. She has been teaching basketry full time for almost 30 years. Her teaching venues include art and craft schools, fiber/basketry conferences, local guilds and private groups across the country. Black ash grows mainly in the Northeast and there are only a handful of basketmakers who process and sell black ash splint. So, about 10 years ago JoAnn and her husband Steve began harvesting and processing their own black ash splint from trees near their home in western Massachusetts to guarantee a reliable supply of high-quality material for JoAnn's classes.

Catsos' baskets have won numerous awards, including Viewer's and People's Choice at basketry conventions and fiber/basketry exhibitions. Her baskets are in many private and public collections and are featured in a number of books and magazines, including the 2007 publication of 500 Baskets. In 1999 Catsos was honored to have an ornament on the official White House Christmas tree. She received her Certificate of Excellence in Basketmaking from the Handweavers Guild of America in 2003, becoming one of the first two recipients in the country.

Using processed splint from black ash trees in the southern Berkshire Mountains of Massachusetts, she makes the wooden molds, handles, and rims needed for each basket

Mara Superior

Grew up in NYC but moved to western ma and was one of the founders of Pinch Pottery/Ferrin Gallery in Northampton which has tremendous impact on the creative economy of the region. Lives in Hadley, Married to Roy Superior

Mara Superior was born in 1951 and currently resides in Williamsburg, Massachusetts. She is the co-owner of Pinch Pottery in Northampton. She attended Harford Art School at the University of Hartford (1970-71), the University of Connecticut (BFA 1975) as well as the University of Massachusetts, Amherst where she earned an MAT in Ceramics in 1980. She has received fellowships from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the National Endowment for the Arts. Her works are based on traditional forms, using sprigging and under glaze decoration on press molded or slab built wares that are strongly influenced by Superior's interest in traditional American folk imagery, travel and politics. With the exception of her early ceramics, all her work is porcelain fired in a gas kiln. Her pieces range from plates, platters, bowls, tulipières and figurines to larger sculptural pieces. Each form serves as a canvas for her elaborate, intricate underglaze painting.

Silas Kopf

Lives and works in 1885 firehouse that he purchased in 2002 in Easthampton, has lived in Easthampton since 1978

"Here in Easthampton, it's nice to work at a certain level with a sense of sophistication, doing your best," says Kopf. "But you don't have to toot your horn too much here. That's what I like about this community."■

Was an apprentice to Wendell Castle, and he has brought many woodworkers to the area to apprentice with him. Created wall panel as fundraiser to save Amherst Cinema after Pleasant Street Theatre in Northampton shut down. Also a member (founding?) member of the Leeds Design Workshop

Silas Kopf is a furniture maker specializing in the art of marquetry. Born in 1949, Kopf graduated from Princeton University in 1972 with a degree in architecture. He has been making studio furniture since 1973. He was an apprentice to furniture maker, Wendell Castle, for two years.

In 1988 he was the recipient of a Craftsman's Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and used the Fellowship to study traditional marquetry methods at the École Boulle in Paris. Subsequently, Kopf had the opportunity to travel and study marquetry and inlay in Italy, England, and Sweden, expanding his understanding of the European marquetry history of decorative arts. Kopf was named Master of the Medium for 2015 by the James Renwick Alliance of the Smithsonian Institution.

Kopf incorporates a wide variety of techniques to decorate the furniture he both designs and builds. His standards are exacting and every attempt is made to build work of the highest caliber, creating work that is sought after by collectors. Most of the marquetry is made with wood, but occasionally other materials are used; brass, copper, aluminum, mother-of-pearl, abalone, and reconstituted stone.

Kopf's work is found in museums and private collections around the world. His shop is in Easthampton, Massachusetts.

Current Exhibitions at Fuller Craft

Metamorphosis: The Art of Altered Books

July 30 – November 6, 2016

2016 Biennial Members Exhibition

June 25 – September 18, 2016

The Faces of Politics: In/Tolerance

April 16 – August 21, 2016

Paper and Blade: Modern Paper Cutting

February 20 – July 31, 2016

Coming Soon to Fuller Craft

(413): Pioneering Western Massachusetts

August 20, 2016 – November 27, 2016

New Sole of the Old Machine: Steampunk Brockton – Reimagining the City of Shoes

September 10, 2016 – January 1, 2017

Uncommon Exposures

October 1, 2016 – January 22, 2017

John Bisbee: Material Obsession

December 17, 2016 – May 14, 2017

Bartrams Boxes Remix

January 21, 2017 – April 16, 2017

Playa Made: Jewelry of Burning Man

February 1, 2016 – June 4, 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 or call 508.588.6000.

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