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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

How do you define Craft? Is it functional? Is it defined by media?  
Visit Craftboston and you will have a new way of looking at Craft  
March 25-27, 2011  
Seaport World Trade Center, Boston

When 200 craft artists converge for the 10th annual Craftboston show, held March 25-27, 2011 at the Seaport World Trade Center, creative shoppers are sure to find something that they will enjoy. With over twelve different media represented by nationally recognized craft artists, Craftboston 2011 promises to show some of the most innovative and exciting work made in craft today.

The term 'craft' encompasses many forms—clay, glass, furniture, fiber, metal, jewelry, paper, wood and mixed media—and can be functional, sculptural or wearable. Dating back centuries, the term 'craft' refers to products of artistic creation that require a high degree of skill and talent. Additionally, craft requires specialized equipment, is accessible to the general public, and is constructed from materials with histories that exceed the boundaries of western art history.

**Clay:** A fine-grained, firm, earthy material that is plastic-like when wet and hardens when heated, consisting primarily of hydrated silicates of aluminum and widely used in making bricks, tiles, and pottery. In its raw state it is nothing more than mud but when in the hands of Craftboston artist James Guggina it becomes pottery that celebrates the rituals of everyday life like drinking your morning cup of coffee or eating a sandwich at lunchtime. James started as a painter in school and found ceramics filled the need to add another dimension to his work. He enjoys the tactile quality of the clay and how it makes his drawings and patterns come to life.

**Glass:** An amorphous, inorganic, usually transparent or translucent substance consisting of a mixture of silicates or sometimes borates or phosphates formed by fusion of silica or of oxides of boron or phosphorus with a flux and a stabilizer into a mass that cools to a rigid condition without crystallization. Glass artist, Penelope Wurr created an original process of applying color and design onto glass, patented in both Great Britain and the US. Penelope uses sandblasting and translucent enamel overlay to create a graphic finish reminiscent of textiles. She designs one-of-a-kind and limited-edition pieces with quirky and figurative images.

**Wearable Fiber: Clothing:** a covering designed to be worn on a person's body. If you are looking for fashion as opposed to just "covering your body", check out the work of Britt Rynearson. Britt is inspired by the ancient clothing of Japan and the Near East to create her shibori silk jackets and wraps. She constructs each piece of silk into a specific shape and texture to make a new elegant and bold form when worn.

**Jewelry:** Ornaments, such as bracelets, necklaces, or rings, made of precious metals set with gems or imitation gems. Jewelry has come a long way since this definition in the American Heritage dictionary! Now jewelry is made from countless materials like: silver, gold, copper, brass, steel, enamel, glass, plastics and found objects, just to name a few. To help expand your definition of jewelry, you won't want to miss Carolyn Morris Bach's booth. She has developed her jewelry representing the powers of sun, moon, wind, rain, stones, plants and a selection of animals over the past 25 years. Carolyn uses traditional materials like gold, silver and copper as well as more unique ones like bone, ivory and goat hairs.

Furniture: The movable articles in a room or an establishment that make it fit for living or working. Furniture by JM Syron and Bonnie Bishoff will make your room more than just “fit for living,” it will make your room the envy of all your friends! JM Syron and Bonnie Bishoff have been collaborating on furniture since 1987. They are primarily known for their wood carving and intricate polymer clay veneers. Their imagery is bright, colorful and reminiscent of design structures found in nature.

Metal: Any of a category of electropositive elements that usually have a shiny surface, are generally good conductors of heat and electricity, and can be melted or fused, hammered into thin sheets, or drawn into wires. To describe Maureen and Michael Banner’s work as a good conductor of heat and electricity would not even begin to explain what they create! Michael and Maureen Banner’s silver hollowware vessels frequently resemble much of the perennial flowers that surround their rural Massachusetts home and studio. Their collaborative pieces are hand wrought using traditional, low-tech silversmithing tools and techniques.

Wood: The secondary xylem of trees and shrubs, lying beneath the bark and consisting largely of cellulose and lignin. Mark and Sharon Diebolt have been working together for over 28 years making everything from small wooden boxes and clocks to large jewelry armoires and furniture. They use beautiful woods like Beeswing Bolivian Rosewood and Amboyana Burl to make classic and elegant designs. This spring don't miss their new wooden purses!

No matter how you define craft, we are sure that you will find something to love at Craftboston!

For images or for further information on these artists or any of the other 200 artists, please contact Sarah Cunningham at [show@craftboston.org](mailto:show@craftboston.org) or (617) 266-1810 x14.

\*\*Dictionary definitions courtesy of American Heritage Dictionary, Princeton University Dictionary and Merriam-Webster Dictionary.

#### About Us:

Craftboston is produced by The Society of Arts and Crafts, incorporated in 1897. SAC has been at the forefront of the American craft movement fostering the development, sales, recognition and education of craft for over 100 years. The mission of The Society of Arts and Crafts is to support excellence in craft by encouraging the creation, collection, and conservation of the work of craft artists and by educating and promoting public appreciation of contemporary craft.

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