

A journey to the origins, artists and techniques of American craft

CRAFT IN AMERICA

CRAFT IN AMERICA: CELEBRATION

ARTISTS' BIOS

Friday, December 11, 2015 at 10:00pm* on PBS

Celebrations are handed down from generation to generation. Long-practiced traditions blend with new rituals to create festive ceremonies that give shape to what is most important in our lives. ***CRAFT IN AMERICA: CELEBRATION*** continues its exploration of the role of craft and the handmade in our nation's diverse and distinctive winter holiday celebrations.



An early interest in Chinese arts led master martial artist and historian **Corey Chan** to train in and document the ancient Chinese lion dances that are performed for many occasions, especially for Chinese New Year celebrations. Chan, along with fellow artists **Thomas Chun, Jeff Lee, Travis Lum** and **Jared Young** are dedicated to preserving and promoting the cultural legacies of lion dancing, martial arts and dragon dancing. They create and restore elaborate paper maché lion and dragon heads, using traditional handmade methods learned from master craftspeople in China and integrate the symbols, color palettes and stories that have been handed down for centuries.

www.keilun.com



Pewabic has been a beacon for artists since 1905, producing museum quality ceramics in Detroit for over 100 years. Founded by innovative ceramist Mary Chase Perry Stratton, this non-profit pottery and education center celebrates artists of all ages and skill levels. Pewabic, designated a National Historic Landmark, includes a working pottery, museum, archive and exhibition programs. Pewabic has played a role in the recent revitalization of the City of Detroit.

www.pewabic.org



Kwanzaa is an African American tradition begun in 1966 celebrating family, community and culture. Based on African harvest festivals and observed from December 26 to January 1, it offers 7 days of self-affirmation and thoughtful reflection for African-American families culminating in feasting and gift-giving. The tenets are Unity, Self-Determination, Collective Work and Responsibility, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity and Faith. Chicago artist **Babatunde Kenneth Graves** creates a kinara (candle holder), traditionally crafted from natural wood sourced from one's environs. **Dr. Carol Adams** of the DuSable Museum, Chicago celebrants at Chicago State University, and artist **Malik Seneferu** in Oakland, CA share Kwanzaa traditions as they are passed down and celebrated by their communities.

www.dusablemuseum.org www.facebook.com/events/616848671794873



Yoshiko Yamamoto's love of Japanese ukiyo-e informs her blockprint and letterpress art that she creates in her Arts and Crafts Press in Port Arthur, WA. Letterpress printing is a relief process, the oldest form of printing, and Yoshiko is self-taught in the craft. Her style is inspired by the European Arts and Crafts movement (1880-1910) founded by William Morris which favored craft production over industrial manufacture and emphasized strong line-driven designs sourced from nature. Committed to creating things of beauty, art for her is a way of life.

www.artsandcraftspress.com

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Holidays are met with abundant creative energy at **Motawi Tileworks** (Ann Arbor, MI) and in this episode, designer and owner Nawal Motawi collaborates with Yoshiko Yamamoto to create a special holiday tile. After learning her craft at Pewabic, Nawal began producing tiles 23 years ago in a garage studio and today designs and fabricates her colorful signature raised-line tiles for national distribution in a state-of-the-art production facility.

www.motawi.com



The annual San Francisco Chinese New Year parade delights an estimated one million spectators with a two mile long procession of 5,000 participants, 100 groups and clubs, and 26 lighted floats. **East West Floats**, led by master float builders **Dave Thomas** and **Stephanie Mufson**, lead artist **Yumei Hou**, and a staff of exceptional craft artists, create an armada of glittering floats made of metal, wood, Styrofoam sculptures, paint, imagination and passion.

www.theparadeguys.com

CRAFT IN AMERICA is a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing original handcrafted work through the Peabody Award-winning documentary series on PBS nationwide and the free-to-the-public Craft in America Center located in Los Angeles, which offers artist talks, exhibitions, workshops and a library. With thirteen episodes produced since 2007, *CRAFT IN AMERICA* takes viewers on a journey to the artists, origins and techniques of American craft. Each episode contains stories from diverse regions and cultures, blending history with living practice and exploring issues of identity, ritual, philosophy and creative expression. Ancillary projects include extensive websites providing hours of online videos and interactive learning materials, as well as museum exhibitions, and the Random House book *Craft in America: Celebrating Two Centuries of Artists and Objects*.

For more about Craft in America:



craftinamerica.org



youtube.com/craftinamerica



pbs.org/craftinamerica



instagram.com/craftinamerica



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twitter.com/CraftinAmerica

*check local listings

Photos courtesy of Mark Markley, Motawi Tileworks.

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Additional images of all the artists' work are available at:

PBS Pressroom: pressroom.pbs.org/Programs/c/CRAFT-IN-AMERICA/702-Celebration.aspx

(Scroll down to the Photos tab and click on the download buttons next to each photo. Please sign in/register in order to download/view photos.)

Dropbox (68 MB): dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/21500868/CRAFTINAMERICACELEBRATIONEPISODEpress.zip