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## Tennessee Craft Supports Artists with more than \$44K in 2016

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** (June 7, 2016) – This year, the nonprofit Tennessee Craft will award artists more than forty-four thousand dollars in awards, honoraria and scholarships to develop their craft and business acumen. Doing so fulfills Tennessee Craft’s mission to connect makers with resources and opportunities so they can continue and create the fine craft tradition.

The outdoor spring and fall craft fairs in Centennial Park are the most recognizable work of the organization, with nearly three thousand dollars in cash awards given top artists, including a one thousand dollar Best of Show and scores of two hundred and fifty dollar merit awards. Winners this spring included:

***Best of Show***

**Jim McGie**, Wood (Athens, TN)

***Best New Exhibitor***

**Harold Miller**, Clay (Brandon, MS)

***Best Thrown Clay (Talle Johnson Memorial Award)***

**Helene Fielder**, Clay (Booneville, MS)

***Nashville Arts Stand Out Award***

**Shadow May**, Clay (Chattanooga, TN)

***Nashville Arts Stand Out Award Runner Up***

**Lorri Kelly**, Painting (Chattanooga, TN)

***Best Emerging Maker***

**Linda Johnson**, Sculpture (Pleasant Shade, TN)

***Merit Award***

**Kate Harrold**, Photography (Nashville, TN)

***Merit Award***

**Melanie Miller**, Jewelry (Brandon, MS)

***Merit Award***

**Dennis Paullus**, Wood (Arlington, TN)

***Merit Award***

**Rommel Ricaurte**, Sculpture (Lawrenceburg, TN)

***Merit Award***

**Sadie Wang**, Jewelry (Baxter, TN)

An additional one thousand dollar Best of Show will be presented at this fall’s indoor Best of Tennessee Craft Exhibition, to be held August 22 – December 2, 2016, at the Reece Museum at East Tennessee State University. Tennessee artists are encouraged to apply. Deadline for entry is July 5, 2016. Multiple merit winners will also be selected.

Year-round funding is provided to artists for individual learning. Member scholarships, up to two hundred and fifty dollars per award, cover the expense of professional development. Opportunities eligible for funding range from technical, craft-specific courses to general business-related workshops. Current recipients include:

- **Alice Shepherd**, Glass (Hermitage, TN) for *Periscope: Artist Entrepreneur Training* with Arts & Business Council of Greater Nashville
- **Gabriel Greenlaw**, Glass (Smithville, TN) for *Creating Context: Glass in a New Light, The Glass Art Society Conference* in Corning, New York

- **Terry Kornman**, Book binding and paper arts (Nashville, TN) for *Coptic Binding & Wood Carving* with Jennifer Knowles

Full-tuition summer workshops, including room and board, are available through proceeds from Tennessee Craft's successful professional development workshop series like the one held in March, [Make Your Art, then Make it Work](#), and matching funding from Appalachian Center for Craft and Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts. More than thirty-five hundred dollars will be put to good use by this year's Summer Study students:

- **Jeff Brockett**, Woodturning (Mount Juliet, TN) for *The Basket Illusion* at Arrowmont
- **Julie Clark**, Jewelry (Knoxville, TN ) for 3D Printing and Casting at Appalachian Center for Craft
- **Chery Cratty**, Pulp painting (Smithville, TN) for *Water-Soluble Stitching* at Appalachian Center for Craft
- **Matthew English**, Papermaking and book arts (Nashville, TN) for *Fiber + Water + Heat + Hand + Paper = Books* at Arrowmont

Twelve thousand dollars annually goes to artists selected for the [Master Artist Apprentice Program](#) (MAAP), in partnership with Tennessee Arts Commission, where three Tennessee artists are directly funded to apprentice under highly skilled master artists. MAAP was created to help artists reach the next level of their professional development from one-on-one mentorship, not typically available in most learning environments. This year's pairs include:

- Apprentice **Lesley Patterson-Marx** (Nashville, TN) and Master Artist **Teresa Hays** (Franklin, TN)
- Apprentice **Rose Spurrier** (Knoxville, TN) and Master Artist **Lisa Kurtz** (Knoxville, TN)
- Apprentice **Brenda Stein** (Nashville, TN) and Master Artist **Jammie Williams** (Ashland City, TN)

Mark your calendar to see the results of this year's awarded pairs in an exhibit held at the Tennessee Art Commission's gallery September 23 – November 11, 2016.

Tennessee Craft provides artists and arts professionals an honorarium to be jurors for all our awards and scholarships. Thanks to the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee grant, artists are paid to provide high quality craft activities in the kids' tent at the spring and fall Tennessee craft fairs. Partnership with the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development for the upcoming Tennessee Craft Week, October 7-16, will pay artists to demonstrate in welcome centers across the state.

For more information on supporting local artists, see [tennesseecraft.org](http://tennesseecraft.org) for sponsorship opportunities. Consider becoming a sponsor of our scholarships, purchase awards at the fairs, or Tennessee Craft Week.

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#### *About Tennessee Craft*

The Tennessee Association of Craft Artists (TACA) is now Tennessee Craft. Since 1965, the organization has worked to continue and create Tennessee's fine craft tradition. With more than 500 members throughout the state, Tennessee Craft serves as the premier connecting point for local, independent makers and their audiences through Craft Fairs, exhibitions, professional development and educational programs.

Supported by:

