

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MASTER ARTISTS PREPARE TO PASS DOWN TRADITIONS

Experienced craft artists mentor emerging artists to carry on Tennessee craft traditions

Nashville, Tenn. (December 1, 2014) – Tennessee craft masters, Chery Cratty, Scott DeWaard and Claudia Lee will mentor rising stars during a combined 580 hours of one-on-one instruction in 2015. These artists, recently selected for the Master Artist Apprentice Program (MAAP), possess significant skills and creative aptitude that will live on in the hands of their apprentices.

MAAP updates the traditional master/apprentice relationship by rewarding selected artists with a grant to ensure craft art is not lost in Tennessee. The time-honored, yet innovative initiative results from a partnership between Tennessee Craft (formerly TACA) and the Tennessee Arts Commission (TAC).

“Tennessee Craft is the perfect partner organization to deliver fine craft mentoring,” said Teri Alea, executive director of Tennessee Craft. “In addition to accomplishing our mission, passing along these skills helps ensure that crafts continue to be practiced within our communities, providing livelihoods to craft makers and raising the cultural and economic vitality of our state.”



Master Artist Scott DeWaard

The following partners will work together to sustain craft for the next generation:

Pulp Painting:	Master Chery Cratty (<i>Smithville</i>)	Apprentice Traci Batchelor Paden (<i>Chattanooga</i>)
Wood Furniture:	Master Scott DeWaard (<i>Walland</i>)	Apprentice Stephen Shankles (<i>Maryville</i>)
Papermaking:	Master Claudia Lee (<i>Liberty</i>)	Apprentice Gail Looper (<i>Smithville</i>)

Now in its sixth year, the program boasts a distinguished group of alums, including Alan LeQuire, Talle Johnson, Sherri Warner-Hunter and more. Jeanne Brady, Olen Bryant and Ned Crouch served as the panel of jurors and worked diligently to select the all-star lineup of master/apprentice pairs from a pool of qualified applicants. The public can experience the results of this year’s awarded pairs’ time together in an exhibit held at the Tennessee Art Commission’s gallery in the fall of 2015.

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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 and educational programs. For more information please visit www.tennesseecraft.org.

The Tennessee Arts Commission is a state arts agency whose mission is to cultivate the arts for the benefit of all Tennesseans and their communities. More information can be found at tn.gov/arts.