



Tennessee Craft Artist Mary Hamby Selected as Top “30 under 30” Craft Artist

American Craft Week selects Thirty National Craft Artists as Rising Stars

Nashville, TN (August 16, 2016)- Chattanooga resident and Tennessee Craft member **Mary Hamby**, is recognized as one of the nation’s top fine craft artists by **American Craft Week** — in its “Rising Stars competition” of artists under thirty. The “Rising Stars Competition” brings attention to the exceptional work of young craft artists. Open nominations were held earlier in the year and the ACW National Committee juried the entries for their excellence in design and skill level; impressive body of work; strong commitment to craftsmanship; work exhibited and/or offered for sale to the public; and a commitment to community and social values.

Mary Hamby founded her business, [Twenty Two West](#), utilizing a place that inspired her- the home she grew up in, in Greenville, SC, and her passion is to connect people with beautiful and attainable art with a focus on character driven art that emphasizes texture and color.

Hamby says, “My goal with everything I make is to use traditional crafts combined in new ways. I use the classic techniques of weaving, ceramics, and woodworking to create wearable art and to build approachable sculptures that suit the modern home.

Each loom block begins by sanding through layers of reclaimed wood to expose the unique figure. Once the loom is built, I begin shaping the clay, firing it, and gilding each piece by hand, and finally layering in colors and textures using responsibly sourced fibers. Every loom block I create is different- no two of these sculptures are ever the same, and each one has its own personality, that comes to life throughout the handmade process.

My woven necklaces are a wearable version of the loom blocks; hand woven out of pure cotton threads on a miniature loom. Once woven, each piece is then stitched onto gilded earthenware base after it comes out of the kiln. I add a long chain to complete each wearable piece of art.”

Each Rising Star winner is profiled in a special digital exhibit at www.acwshowcase.com/rswelcome, along with a personal feature in the October 2016 print issue of **Handmade Business**. The publication is available from Jones Publishing at www.handmade-business.com.

Speaking for the committee, ACW co-chair Diane Sulg, said, "Please join us in congratulating the winners! Their works are an outstanding testimony to the promising future of handmade American craft. We also ask you to encourage and support the young artists in communities across the country."

The full list of the "rising Stars winners includes:Lindsay Giants Black, 29, Asheville, NC, furniture; Seth Brayton, 28, Portland, ME, furniture; Becky Burnette, 24, Canton, NC, metalsmith; Lindsay DeBlasio, 25, Charlotte, NC, ceramic art; Hannah Ehlman, 25 Frostburg, MD, metalworks; Danielle Gerber, 26, Portland, ME, metalsmith; Jenna Lynn Gianni, 27, Middletown, MD, ceramics; Mary Hamby, 23, Chatanooga, TN, fiber; Reed Hansuld, 29, Brooklyn, NY, furniture; Amber D. Harrison, 28, Ann Arbor, MI, metalwork's; Anna Johnson, 27, Asheville, NC, jewelry; Max Macsai Kaplan, 25, Fort Bragg, CA, furniture

Sophie Kennedy, 23, Seagrove, NC, ceramics; Bowen Liu, 25, Rochester, NY, furniture; Martin Moon, 25, Westchester, PA, metalsmith; Keeper Nott, 26, Anchorage, AK, glass; Kirsten Olson, 26, Harrisburg, PA, ceramics; Jacob Michael Pfeifer, 29, Gladstone, NJ, glass; Michael V. Pivec, 28, Queenstown, MD, wood; Cate Richards, 29, Lawrence, KS, jewelry; Trent Robinson, 23, Weaverville, NC, knives; Fabiano Sarra, 27, Snowmass Village, CO, furniture; Alice Scott, 28, Asheville, NC, jewelry; Emily Shaffer, 25, Trenton, ME, jewelry; Joshua Shelley, 25, New Market, MD, ceramics; Tim Sherman, 28, Smithsburg, MD, ceramics; Tricia Taylor, 24, Berea, KY, ceramics; Hanna Traynham, 29, Portland, OR, ceramics; Grace Wintermyer, 26, Richmond, KY, printmaking; Meiyi Yang, 25, West Henrietta, NY, jewelry

The Rising Star Competition is produced by American Craft Week and sponsored by IndieMe and the ACRE tradeshows, which are dedicated to bringing together the makers and retailers of handmade American products.

Celebrating fifty years, Tennessee Craft, formerly The Tennessee Association of Craft Artists, works 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, networking, mentorship and other educational programs. Tennessee Craft Week will be held October 7-16, 2016. Visit www.tennesseecraft.org or email info@tennesseecraft.org to learn more.

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