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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## MASTER ARTIST APPRENTICE PROGRAM EXHIBITING IN NASHVILLE & KNOXVILLE

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** (October 20, 2015) – For the seventh year, the Tennessee Arts Commission, in partnership with Tennessee Craft, is offering a paid opportunity for emerging craft makers to learn traditional and contemporary craft skills from master-level craftsmen.

In total, six Master Artist Apprentice Program (MAAP) participants will receive \$12,000 to take their craft to the next level using relevant and alternative education experiences. The program ensures the skills and knowledge needed to continue our state's craft heritage live on and that crafts continue to be practiced within our communities, providing livelihoods to makers and raising the cultural and economic vitality of our state. The application deadline for 2016 is October 31 and will open again on August 1, 2016 for the 2017 program. For more information, visit the [MAAP page on the Tennessee Craft website](#).

[The Tennessee Arts Commission](#) is currently exhibiting the 2015 Master Artist Apprentice Program Artists until **November 14**. This year's featured work was created from 580 hours of one-on-one mentoring instruction by masters to encourage, strengthen and grow the apprentices' artistic foundation.

The 2015 MAAP artists are:

- **Pulp Painting: Master Chery Cratty (Smithville) and Apprentice Traci Paden (Chattanooga)**
- **Wood Furniture: Master Scott DeWaard (Walland) and Apprentice Stephen Shankles (Maryville)**
- **Papermaking: Master Claudia Lee (Liberty) and Apprentice Gail Looper (Smithville)**

The Tennessee Arts Commission Gallery is located at 401 Charlotte Avenue, Nashville, TN 37243. The gallery is free and open to the public Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Although not necessary, you may schedule a gallery tour; contact [Krishna Adams](#) at [\(615\) 532-9798](#). For ADA inquiries, contact [Kim Johnson](#) [\(615\) 532-9797](#).

**Master Scott DeWaard (Walland) and Apprentice Stephen Shankles (Maryville)** will also be showing work they created while in the Master Artist Apprentice Program at the **18th Master Woodworkers Show** presented by the East Tennessee Woodworkers Guild and the Arts & Culture Alliance, **November 6-8, at the Emporium Center** in downtown Knoxville. This biennial juried show highlights the handcrafted works of 33 craftspeople and artists of East Tennessee and the surrounding region, featuring many types of woodworking from traditional to whimsical, including fine furniture, cabinetry, turning, sculpture and marquetry.

Friday, November 6, 4:00-9:00 PM

Saturday, November 7, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Sunday, November 8, 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

The 18th Master Woodworkers Show will be at the Emporium Center, 100 S. Gay Street (corner of Gay/Jackson) in downtown Knoxville. For more information, visit [www.masterwoodworkers.org](http://www.masterwoodworkers.org) or contact the Arts & Culture Alliance at (865) 523-7543.

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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:



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