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47th Annual Spring Tennessee Craft Fair Awards

Best of Show and Merit Awards Presented to Artisans

Nashville, TN. (June 1, 2018) Tennessee Craft announces the 47th Annual Spring Tennessee Craft Fair Awards, presented Saturday, May 5. Guest Juror, **Diane Sulg, Executive Director of the Craft Retailers Association For Tomorrow** presented awards and remarks at a special Artist Breakfast. Sulg awarded Glass Artist **Paula Marksbury** with the top honor, *Best of Show Award* for 2018 Spring Fair. The prestigious *Talle Johnson Memorial Award* for Thrown Clay was presented to potter **Melodie Grace**, and Fiber Artist **Carol Clay** was recognized with the Best New Exhibitor Award.

"We were so pleased with the caliber of the craft artists' work this spring; the degree of talent and craftsmanship increases each year. Both returning artists and new exhibitors compete for the opportunity to sell at our marketplace, pushing their skill levels with ingenious designs. Having Diane Sulg, who is a nationally-renowned craft professional, jury the fair in Nashville's midtown Centennial Park reiterates what a superior offering Tennessee Craft brings to the people of Tennessee," says Teri Alea, Tennessee Craft executive director.

Merit Winners Include:

James Barnes, Wood; **Helen Fielder**, Clay; **Peter Geiger**, Mixed Media; **Marge Luttrell**, Encaustics; **Amber Anne Palo**, Clay; **Thomas Spake**, Glass; and **Connie Ulrich**, Jewelry.

The Tennessee Craft Fairs offer fair goers and patrons unique fine art and craft worth collecting, directly from juried, award-winning craft artists worth supporting. The exhibitions provide the public numerous opportunities to meet the artists, admire their creativity and learn what inspires them.

One of the highlights of the Spring Fair is the VIP Awards Tour, a guided stroll through the fair to meet each of the award-winning artists, hearing about their unique processes and learning what special qualities or compelling techniques caught the attention of the guest juror. It is a wonderful opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the artists' imagination, originality and skills.

Learn more about Tennessee Craft Fairs at <http://tennesseecraft.org/events/craft-fairs>

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About: **Tennessee Craft** is a member-driven nonprofit arts organization dedicated to creating opportunities for Tennessee's independent craft artists to thrive. Since 1965, Tennessee Craft has been the only networked community of craft artists across the state, with local chapters and regional opportunities for talent growth, professional development, and one-of-a-kind exhibitions, paired with high-visibility public exhibitions.

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