

TENNESSEE CRAFT

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Craft Stars Event Celebrates Best of Tennessee Craft Artists

NASHVILLE, TN (July 14, 2022)—[Tennessee Craft](#) invites the public to celebrate award-winning craft artists at *Craft Stars*, a reception honoring the 2021-2022 Best of Tennessee Craft award winners on Saturday, August 6, at 6:30 p.m. Gruhn Guitars in Nashville will host the event and provide a behind-the-scenes tour of their guitar repair workshops.

The Best of Tennessee Craft is a biennial juried exhibition of Tennessee craft artists, hosted by venues around the state. From October 29, 2021 to February 20, 2022, the exhibition was on display at the Tennessee State Museum. Guest jurors Annabeth Dooley of the Tennessee State Museum and Peter Baldaia of the Huntsville Museum of Art selected nine award winners for cash prizes.

The Best in Show prize went to Beizar Aradini of Nashville for her fiber artwork "My Existence is Political." Marty McConnaughey (Sharps Chapel, basketry) won First Place; John Jordan (Cane Ridge, wood) took Second Place; and Ashley Seay (Nashville, sculpture) received the Third Place prize. Jurors granted Merit Awards to Jeanne W. Brady (Smithville, fiber/textile), Sherri Warner Hunter (Bell Buckle, sculpture), Monya Nikahd (Saint Louis, MO, formerly of Nashville, fiber/textile), Lesley Patterson-Marx (Nashville, fiber/textile), and Ronald E. Young (Chattanooga, wood).

The *Craft Stars* event will feature foods inspired by the cuisine of Kurdistan, in recognition of Aradini's Kurdish heritage. A dessert bar will offer selections that are favorites of the top prize winners, and wine and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided. All awarded artists will have the opportunity to exhibit their artwork at the event and most will be on hand to discuss their creative processes. Aradini will provide a live demonstration of her embroidery techniques.

Tickets to the *Craft Stars* event are \$40 per person and can be purchased at www.tennesseecraft.org/bestof. More information on the exhibition and related programs is available at this website. *Craft Stars* is sponsored by Gruhn Guitars, BuddhaBee Collection and Craig Nutt Studio.

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Supported by:



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About Tennessee Craft: Tennessee Craft, formerly The Tennessee Association of Craft Artists (TACA), 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. Visit tennesseecraft.org to learn more.