

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information contact:
Talia Tax, Metals Artist in Residence
Appalachian Center for Craft
E: ttax@tntech.edu P: 520-333-0531

UNYIELDING

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE SHOWCASE
APPALACHIAN CENTER FOR CRAFT

February 15 - March 29, 2026
Reception February 20, 5:00-7:00 pm

The Appalachian Center for Craft is pleased to present “*Unyielding*”, the annual Artist-in-Residence Exhibition. Curated by the artists, the show will be on view from February 15- March 29, 2026 in the Dogwood Gallery at the Appalachian Center for Craft. The reception will be February 20th from 5:00- 7:00 pm and will be catered by local business Meg’s Bread.

This exhibition is a chronicle of work created during the artists’ 1-2 year long residencies at the Craft Center. The Appalachian Center for Craft’s Artist in Residence Program (AIR) allows emerging professional artists to work in its immersive studio environment. AIRs are integral to the educational programs of the Craft Center, providing additional artistic perspectives, expertise and experiences to students. While the work spans a variety of mediums, the artists are united in their dedication to craft and contributions to the Craft Center.

The artists featured are Jasmine Best (Fibers), Andrew Foster (Clay), Alexandra Mavrikis (Wood), Kayla Sanford (Glass), Talia Tax (Metals), and Jim Wysolmierski (Exhibitions). Each artist has had a wealth of artistic experience that shapes the work presented in this exhibition.

Jasmin Best is a Southern American artist who uses her personal memories and archival research to analyze subtext created by how black and southern American cultures influence, clash, and are turned into mainstream American culture. She holds an MFA with Distinction from the Lamar Dodd School of Art at the University of Georgia (2025).

Andrew Foster is a ceramic artist from Rochester, NY who has an MFA from the School for American Craft at the Rochester Institute of Technology. His functional pottery honors New York’s centuries-old legacy of stoneware production, while seeking to reinvigorate and advance the tradition. He writes “By



UNYIELDING

APPALACHIAN CENTER FOR CRAFT ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE SHOWCASE

Dogwood Gallery · 1560 Craft Center Drive, Smithville, Tennessee

February 15 - March 29, 2026 · Reception: February 20th 5:00 - 7:00 pm

JASMINE BEST · TALIA TAX · ALEXANDRA MAVRIKIS
KAYLA SANFORD · JIM WYSOLMIERSKI · ANDREW FOSTER

aligning my personal experience and narrative with the making, I imagine, through objects, a world where these traditions had continued”.

Alexandra Mavrikis is a sculptor, furniture maker, and visual arts educator from New York with an MFA in Applied Design from San Diego State University. Her work incorporates mixed media, with a focus on wood and ceramic and has been exhibited nationally. She addresses the body, gender, and spatial relations, and questions the necessity of functionality in furniture in the home.

Kayla Sanford is a glass artist from Cleveland, OH. She earned her BFA in Glass from the Cleveland Institute of Art in 2021. Her work focuses on creating objects that foster comfort, and Kayla invites viewers to draw connections to themselves. She notes, “I’m excited by the bonds we form with handmade objects, how they become part of us, and how we use them to connect with others”.

Talia Tax is a metalsmith from Arizona with a B.A. in Computing and the Arts from Yale University. Using heat as the mechanism of change, they make small objects that address resilience, community and safety. Talia focuses on processes like metal-casting, enameling, and soldering and has participated in exhibitions across the country.

Jim Wysolmierski is a sculptor and arts educator from the flatlands of Florida. He holds an MFA in Emerging Media: Studio Art and Design from the University of Central Florida and completed his undergraduate degree at the University of South Florida. His art-making process draws on understanding and acceptance of past traumas, employing the intersection of industrial and bodily imagery.

The exhibition is in Dogwood Gallery at the Appalachian Center for Craft, 1560 Craft Center Drive in Smithville, TN. For more information, contact Talia Tax at ttax@tntech.edu or call 520-333-0531.