



February 21, 2012

EXHIBITION FACT SHEET



Title: CRAFTING MODERNISM: MIDCENTURY MODERN ART AND DESIGN

When: February 26–May 20, 2012

Description: This survey of the studio craft movement during the years following the Second World War features the work of more than 170 artists and designers, among them such iconic figures as Harry Bertoia, Anni Albers, Isamu Noguchi, Wendell Castle, Albert Paley, Peter Voulkos, Harvey Littleton and Maria Martinez. Today, the work of these “midcentury modern” masters is highly sought by collectors.

Local connections: The importance of western New York in the history of the craft movement cannot be underestimated. Three institutions in particular are well represented in *Crafting Modernism*: RIT’s School for American Crafts, the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, and Syracuse University.



Exhibition party: Saturday, February 25, 8–11 pm

Programs: These include two lectures (February 26 and April 19), a teachers’ inservice (February 29) and a scavenger hunt (March 8). The Gallery Store will also host a Ron Pearson Trunk Show (April 26–28).

Credit line: This exhibition is made possible through the generosity of the National Endowment for the Arts; the Henry Luce Foundation; and the Craft Research Fund of the Center for Craft, Creativity and Design. It was organized by the Museum of Arts and Design, New York City.



In Rochester, it is sponsored by Harter Secrest & Emery LLP, with additional support from the Mabel Fenner Lyon Fund, the Gallery Council of the Memorial Art Gallery, Ron and Cathy Paprocki, and Mann’s Jewelers. Support is also provided by the friends of Grant Holcomb in honor of his tenure as Director of the Memorial Art Gallery.

Hours: Wednesday–Sunday 11 am–5 pm and until 9 pm Thursday. Special school break hours 11 am–5 pm on Tuesday, April 10. Closed Mondays and all other Tuesdays.

Admission: \$12; senior citizens, \$8; college students with ID and children 6–18, \$5. Always free to members, UR students, and children 5 and under. Half-price general admission Thursdays from 5–9 pm is made possible by ExxonMobil Chemical Company and Monroe County.



On the web: mag.rochester.edu

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February 21, 2012

CRAFTING MODERNISM OPENS FEBRUARY 26 AT MAG
Major Traveling Exhibition Surveys Midcentury American Art and Design



ROCHESTER, NY — The years following the Second World War saw an explosion of craft art in America. Men and women from all walks of life and corners of the globe rediscovered and reinvigorated such traditional media as ceramics, fiber, glass, metal and wood. In our own region, Rochester Institute of Technology and Alfred University became major creative centers.

A major traveling exhibition that surveys the studio craft movement opens February 26, 2012 at the Memorial Art Gallery and remains on view through May 10. *Crafting Modernism: Midcentury American Art and Design* includes works by more than 170 artists and designers, among them such masters as Harry Bertoia, Anni Albers, Isamu Noguchi, Wendell Castle, Albert Paley,

Peter Voulkos, Harvey Littleton and Maria Martinez. Today, the work of these “midcentury modern” artists is highly sought by collectors. *A complete list of artists is attached.*

The exhibition, which spans the years from 1945 to 1969, begins with the early postwar era, when the independent craftsman lifestyle became a compelling alternative to the anonymity of the corporate world. It then moves on to the turbulent late 1950s and 1960s, which witnessed the emergence of the crafted object as a work of art informed by Abstract Expressionism, Pop Art, Funk, social commentary and counterculture.

Sponsors

Crafting Modernism is made possible through the generosity of the National Endowment for the Arts; the Henry Luce Foundation; and the Craft Research Fund of the Center for Craft, Creativity and Design. It was organized by the Museum of Arts and Design, New York City. Major support for the exhibition catalog has been provided by an anonymous donor.

In Rochester, the exhibition is sponsored by Harter Secrest & Emery LLP, with additional support from the Mabel Fenner Lyon Fund, the Gallery Council of the Memorial Art Gallery, Ron and Cathy Paprocki and Mann’s Jewelers. Support is also provided by the friends of Grant Holcomb in honor of his tenure as Director of the Memorial Art Gallery.

Crafting Modernism was organized by curator Jeannine Falino and associate curator Jennifer Scanlan of the Museum of Arts and Design, where the show opened in October 2011.

Western New York connections

The importance of western New York in the history of the craft movement cannot be underestimated. Three institutions in particular are well represented in *Crafting Modernism*: RIT’s School for American Crafts (SAC), the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, and Syracuse University.

Artists with SAC connections include furniture maker and sculptor **Wendell Castle**, artist-in-residence and faculty member since the 1960s; metalsmith **Albert Paley**, who came to the school in 1968 and today holds



an endowed chair; metalsmith **Hans Christensen**, who taught 1954–83; Christensen students **Vincent Ferrini**, **Ronald Senungetuk** and **Olaf Skoogfors**; jeweler **Ronald Hayes Pearson**, who taught at the school and cofounded Shop One, the historic craftsman-run gallery which operated 1953–77; metalsmith **John “Jack” Prip**, another founder of Shop One; and Prip students **Robert J. King**, **Lorna Pearson Watson** and **Ruth Radakovich**. (Radakovich was further connected with the Memorial Art Gallery, where she taught at the Creative Workshop.) And two artists—Charles Laloma and Earl McCutchen—taught at SAC in 1947-48, when it was headquartered at Alfred University.

Other artists with Alfred connections include **F. Carlton Ball**, **Fong Chow Ka-Kwong Hui**, **Joel Philip Myers**, **William Parry** and **Robert Chapman Turner**.

Artists with Syracuse University connections include silversmith **John C. Marshall**; and jeweler and metalsmith **Earl Pardon**, who went on to chair the art department at Skidmore College.

ABOVE: Ruth Radakovich, *Door* (1969). Fiberglass, resin, lenses, wood. Collection of the Prairie School, Racine, WI.

Programs and events

These include an exhibition preview party (February 25), a lecture by exhibition curator Jeannine Falino with artist Wendell Castle (February 26); a teachers’ inservice (February 29); a scavenger hunt hosted by the MAG YPs (March 8); a lecture by Jean France on local midcentury landmarks (April 19); and a Ronald Hayes Pearson Trunk Show (April 26–28). *See attached release.*

Catalog

A fully illustrated, 368-page hardcover catalog of the exhibition is available in the Gallery Store (\$65).

Hours and admission

Wednesday–Sunday 11 am–5 pm and until 9 pm Thursday. Special school break hours 11 am–5 pm on Tuesday, April 10. Closed Mondays and all other Tuesdays.

Admission is \$12; senior citizens, \$8; college students with ID and children 6–18, \$5. Always free to members, UR students, and children 5 and under. Half-price admission Thursdays from 5–9 pm is made possible by ExxonMobil Chemical Company and Monroe County.

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CRAFTING MODERNISM PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

PREVIEW PARTY

Saturday, February 25, 8–11 pm

\$25 (MAG members at Supporter level and above, free)

Advance tickets required; call 585-276-8939 during business hours

The word from the bird is...put on your coolest threads and get ready for some radioactive fun, food and tunes! At our opening bash, Daddy-O invites you hang with us for some kicks. See the flick *Rebel Without a Cause* in the Auditorium, and we'll lay out some sounds with the Metropolitan Stompers in the Ballroom and Zach and Lacey Lee in the Pavilion. Grab some food and drink for purchase from party sponsor Max at the Gallery (also serving dinner 5–9 pm).

LECTURES

Sunday, February 26 at 2 pm / included in Gallery admission

Jeannine Falino, curator at the Museum of Arts and Design in New York City and co-curator of *Crafting Modernism*, gives an overview of the exhibition. She'll be joined by renowned furniture maker and sculptor Wendell Castle, whose iconic *Music Rack* (1964) is included in the show. Made possible by the MAG Education Fund. Included in Gallery admission.

Made possible by the MAG Endowment Fund.

Thursday, April 19 at 7 pm / included in Gallery admission

"Local Landmarks of Modernism." Jean France, architectural historian and UR professor emeritus, speaks on three local midcentury residential landmarks. Her half-hour talk will be followed by "Living in a Landmark," a presentation by Steven Plouffe, who lives in the 1957 Alcoa House.

ESPECIALLY FOR EDUCATORS

*Wednesday, February 29, 4:30–7 pm / \$30**

"What is Design?" Area art teachers are invited to explore *Crafting Modernism*, develop curriculum connections and design their own ultimate classroom chair.

**Registration and prepayment required; please contact Kerry Donovan at kdonovan@mag.rochester.edu or 585-276-8971.*

MAG YP SCAVENGER HUNT

Thursday, March 8, 6–8 pm / \$10 includes MAG admission, clue packet and glass of wine

Explore the exhibition *Crafting Modernism*! Your clue packet will guide you to objects or locations in the show, for the chance to win prizes. While at MAG, also purchase small plates at Max at the Gallery's weekly Tapas Night.

Hosted by the Memorial Art Gallery Young Professionals.

[more...](#)

RON PEARSON TRUNK SHOW

Thursday, April 26, 6–9 pm

Friday, April 27, 11 am–5 pm

Saturday, April 28, 11 am–5 pm

This Gallery Store trunk show features 14K gold and sterling silver jewelry from the design studio of the late Ronald Hayes Pearson, whose work is included in *Crafting Modernism*.

GUIDED EXHIBITION TOURS *(included in Gallery admission)*

Sunday, February 26, 1 pm and 3 pm

Sundays, March 4–May 10, 1 pm

Fridays, March 2–May 8, 2 pm

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Crafting Modernism: Midcentury American Art and Design
February 26–May 10, 2012 at the Memorial Art Gallery

ARTIST LIST

Adela Akers	Lucia DeRespinis	Vladimir Kagan
Anni Albers	Jan de Swart	Jun Kaneko
Joe Reyes Apodaca	Jay DeFeo	John Kapel
Robert Arneson	Dominic Di Mare	Karen Karnes
Richard Artschwager	Karl Drerup	Alton Kelley
Ruth Asawa	Mary Adrienne Dumas	Robert J. King
F. Carlton Ball	Charles Eames	Brent Kington
Kenneth Bates	Ray Eames	Howard Kottler
Garry Knox Bennett	Edris Eckhardt	Sam Kramer
William Ernest Bennett	Joel Edwards	Dominick Labino
Arieto (Harry) Bertoia	Wharton Esherick	Jack Lenor Larsen
Jim Blashfield	Paul Evans	Ibram Lassaw
Lili Blumenau	Claire Falkenstein	Stanley Lechtzin
J.B. Blunk	Vincent Ferrini	James Leedy
Stewart Brand	Arline M. Fisch	Dorothy Liebes
Irena Brynner	Elsa Freund	Marvin Lipofsky
Alexander Calder	Michael Frimkess	Harvey Littleton
Arthur Espenet Carpenter	Alexander Girard	Charles Loloma
Wendell Castle	Adolph Gottlieb	Glen Lukens
Orville Chatt	Linda Gravenites	Thomas Lynn
Dale Chihuly	Trude Guermonprez	Alix Kolesky MacKenzie
Fong Chow	Ted Hallman	Warren MacKenzie
Katherine Choy	Eszter Haraszty	Bonnie MacLean
Hans Christensen	Irving Harper	Sam Maloof
William Clark	Edith Kiertzner Heath	Richard Marquis
Betty Cooke	Maurice Heaton	John C. Marshall
Ken Cory	Helena Hernmarck	Maria Martinez
Margret Craver	Sheila Hicks	John Mason
Frank E. Cummings III	Frances Higgins	Rex Mason
Popovi Da	Michael Higgins	Earl McCutchen
Stan Dann	Jack Rogers Hopkins	Leza McVey
Willis "Bing" Davis	Ka-Hwong Hui	James Melchert
Margaret De Patta	Carl Jennings	John Paul Miller

more...

Stanley Mouse
Joel Philip Myers
George Nakashima
Gertrud Natzler
Otto Natzler
John Neuhart
Lloyd Kiva New
Isamu Noguchi
Claes Oldenburg
Rude Osolnik
Albert Paley
Earl Pardon
William Parry
Ronald Hayes Pearson
Richard Pousette-Dart
Phillip Lloyd Powell
James Prestini
John "Jack" Prip
Ruth Radakovich
Robert Rauschenberg
Merry Renk
Jens Risom
Ed Rossbach
Jerry Rothman
Eero Saarinen

Lucas Samaras
Edwin Scheier
Mary Scheier
Mary Ann Schildknecht
Christian Schmidt
Richard Schultz
June Schwarcz
Kay Sekimachi
Ronald Senungetuk
Richard Shaw
Tommy Simpson
Olaf Skoogfors
Arthur Smith
Evert Sodergren
Ramona Solberg
Paul Soldner
Robert Sperry
Rudolf Staffel
John Stephenson
Bob Stocksdale
Marianne Strengell
Dorothy Sturm
Toshiko Takaezu
Henry Takemoto
Lenore Tawney

Wayne Thiebaud
Donald Paul Tompkins
Rick Turner
Robert Chapman Turner
Peter Voulkos
Lorna Pearson Watson
Lynda Watson-Abbott
H. C. Westerman
Katherine Westphal
Ed Wiener
Byron Wilson
Wes Wilson
Bob Winston
J. Fred Woell
Ludwig Yehuda Wolpert
Edward Wormley
Russel Wright
William Wyman
Annabert Yoors
Jan Yoors
Marianne Yoors
Moshe Zabari
Ernest Ziegfeld

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