



Contemporary Craft

ABOUT

Mission Statement:

To engage the public in the creative experience through contemporary craft.

Programming Focus:

Our programs and exhibitions relate to at least one of four key themes:

- **urban experience** – art reflecting the unusual materials, culture and energy of the urban neighborhood;
- **art and the environment** – work revealing the connections between contemporary art and nature;
- **artists and process** – the techniques, inspirations and unique inner visions underlying the creation of each artist's work;
- **crossing cultural boundaries** – challenging audiences to expand their thinking through multicultural and non-mainstream art that reflects a diverse range of traditions, materials and techniques.

Background:

- 1971—*Elizabeth R. Raphael opened The Store for Arts and Crafts and People Made Things in Verona, PA.*
- 1986—*The Store for Arts and Crafts and People-Made Things became the Society for Contemporary Craft and moved from Verona to Pittsburgh's Strip District.*
- 1990—*The Satellite Gallery at BNY Mellon Center (formerly One Mellon Center) is created as an alternate exhibition space for SCC.*
- 2001—*SCC doubles in size following a major expansion/renovation.*
- 2001—*The Studio, a 4,000-square-foot education center with three large working studios, opens at SCC's newly renovated space*

Summary of Programs and Activities:

- **Exhibitions** — 2 exhibitions with a national/international programming focus per year at the main gallery, and 5-6 exhibitions with a local/regional programming focus per year at the Satellite Gallery at BNY Mellon Center.
 - The Elizabeth R Raphael Founder's Prize Exhibition, established in 1997, is a biennial juried exhibition/competition that awards a \$5,000 prize to one finalist. With each iteration, the exhibitions media focus changes.
 - The Bridge Exhibition Series, established in 1988, seeks to heighten the public's awareness of the powerful work being created by contemporary artists. Three concurrent solo exhibitions feature mid-career artists.
- **The Studio** – offering classes and workshops taught by national and regional artists, and the *Artist & Kids* program pairing a visiting artist with at-risk youth. Arts Enrichment for Schools – Museum/School Partnerships with a Pittsburgh Public School middle school, a Teacher Training Institute and school tours.
- **Public Programs and Events** – a drop-in activity area, artist lectures and demonstrations, artists' studio tours, gallery openings and the annual benefit event.
- **Outreach Programs** – SCC partners with social service agencies that address four target audiences: children at-risk and their families, the homeless, literacy students and the elderly.
- **The Store** – A retail store featuring the best of international, national and regional artists, and a biennial competition called the Lydon Emerging Artist Program (LEAP) which seeks to advance the careers of emerging artists through representation in the Store.