



# Contemporary Craft

## FAST FACTS

- Founded by Elizabeth R. Raphael in 1971, the Society for Contemporary Craft (SCC) is a nonprofit, visual arts organization with a history of presenting nationally and internationally known contemporary artists who work in craft media (clay, fiber, glass, metal, wood and found materials).
- Since moving to its Smallman Street location in 1986, the organization has presented over 230 exhibitions featuring the work of more than 2,000 artists.
- SCC is one of the few arts organizations in Western Pennsylvania that is free of charge.
- SCC's focus on contemporary crafts makes it very accessible since craft represents the materials and forms people use in everyday life.
- SCC regularly travels its exhibitions to other cities. In developing an exhibition, artistic staff look for a compelling idea, or a new voice, or a concept not previously exhibited.
- In 2001, SCC completed its second major renovation, which more than doubled the facility's size, from 7,000 to 16,000 square feet. This expanded facility includes a 4,000-square-foot Education Center, where a wide range of classes, lectures and workshops are provided for both adult and student learners.
- Almost 26,000 people visit SCC's Strip District location each year; with another 100,000 viewing its changing exhibits at the One Mellon Center satellite gallery.
- At its main gallery, SCC focuses on national and international programming, offering three exhibitions each year. The satellite gallery features local and regional programming with five to six exhibitions each year.
- SCC offers a free, hands-on art activity developed by exhibiting artists for adults and children in its drop-in workshop area.
- The Studio, SCC's Education Center, features classes taught by highly accomplished professional artists. Courses in book arts, fiber, metal and wood are the primary focus.
- SCC has offered hundreds of workshops, seminars and other public programs.
- The Store at SCC displays and markets one-of-a-kind works by more than 400 national and regional artists. Offerings include jewelry, ceramics, glass, tableware, textiles, ornaments, accessories and furniture.
- SCC offers a variety of outreach programs through partnerships with social service agencies that address four target audiences: children at-risk and their families, the homeless, literacy students and the elderly.
- SCC's Museum/School Partnership with Southbrook Middle School was established in 1995. This partnership infuses art throughout the school's curricula, allowing more than 400 middle school students annually to work firsthand with local artists in craft media.