



contemporary craft  
*media alert*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**WHAT:**

Inspired by Pittsburgh ceramic artist Edward Eberle's black and white motifs, Contemporary Craft's new salon-style speaker series – titled *The Space Between* – invites two local thought-leaders representing different viewpoints and backgrounds to discuss the role of creativity within their respective fields. Loosely organized around themes of language, the body, and food, each of the three scheduled events joins together fascinating and buzz-worthy local cultural producers in an evening of inspiring and revealing conversation.

In the first part of each program, speakers will talk briefly about their background and the way they approach the creative process. Topics may include the concepts and themes in their work, personal connections to craft, the use of language, color, and/or movement, and individual processes and techniques. The speakers and audience will then engage in an informal discussion inspired by the presenters' creative journeys and Contemporary Craft's current exhibition, the *Edward Eberle Retrospective* (on view through March 11, 2017). The audience is invited to arrive early to experience the *Edward Eberle Retrospective* in preparation for the program.

**WHEN/WHO:**

- **Thursday, December 1, 2016 - 6pm**  
**Alexandra Oliver, art critic + Anqwenique Wingfield, vocalist**  
**Theme: Language**

**Alexandra Oliver** completed her PhD in art history at the University of Pittsburgh in 2014. She is an art critic and avid Wikipedian. In her day job, Alexandra serves as Research and Development Manager at Radiant Hall Studios, a nonprofit with a mission to create and preserve affordable studios for Pittsburgh artists.

**Anqwenique Wingfield** is an extremely versatile vocalist and educator specializing in opera, classical music, jazz and soul. She is the founder and director of Pittsburgh based artist collective Groove Aesthetic and studio manager of BOOM Concepts: BOOM Studios//Hilltop. In 2014 contemporary jazz band KINETIC (lead by Dr. Joe Sheehan) released debut album "World of Wonder," Anqwenique is the lead vocalist. She was named as one of Whirl Magazine's 13 Under 30 in 2015 and one of the New Pittsburgh Courier's Fab 40 under 40 in 2013. As a teaching artist, Anqwenique has shared her talents and experience with many young singers and musicians in the Pittsburgh area, she was recently hired as the education director of Opera Theater Pittsburgh.

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- **Thursday, February 9, 2017 – 6pm**  
**Hannah Aitchison, tattoo artist + Maria Caruso, dancer and choreographer**  
**Theme: The Body**

**Hannah Aitchison** is an internationally-recognized, multi-award-winning tattoo artist. She has lived and worked in Chicago, Los Angeles, London, and now Pittsburgh. Her background includes 20 years of tattooing adventures, and a style that embraces both classical and modern day illustration, inspired by her background in commercial and graphic arts.

**Maria Caruso**, Founder and Director of *Bodiography* and Chair of the Performing Arts Department at La Roche College, is well known for her leadership as well as her choreographic strength in focusing on humanity in dance. Nominated in 2012 by Examiner.com as one of 25 finalists in the "America Inspired" contest, she continues to utilize dance as a means of expression capable of raising awareness about significant subject matter. Acknowledged at the 2016 Future Health Technology Summit at MIT as a genius of choreography and selected as a 2016 Pittsburgh Business Times Fast Tracker, she has been a force in the cultural landscape. A native to the city, she received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in performing arts and dance from Florida State University at age nineteen and shortly after earned a Master of Science Degree in Professional Leadership with an emphasis on management for non-profit organizations from Carlow University.

- **Thursday, March 9, 2017 - 6pm**  
**Adam Milliron, food photographer, and Bethany Zozula, chef**  
**Theme: Food**

**Adam Milliron** is a Pittsburgh based food, beverage, and product photographer. His studio specializes in photographing food, products, visions, ideas, lifestyles, and concepts – helping some of the world's largest brands tell their stories.

**Bethany Zozula** is Executive Chef at Whitfield at Ace Hotel in East Liberty, one of only a handful of local restaurants run by women. Previously, she was executive sous chef at Eleven in the Strip District.

#### WHERE:

Contemporary Craft  
2100 Smallman Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

The gallery is located at 21<sup>st</sup> and Smallman in the Strip District's historic produce terminal, Contemporary Craft's home since 1986.

#### ADDITIONAL INFO:

*The Space Between* series is free and open to the public with a \$5 suggested donation appreciated at the door.

The *Edward Eberle Retrospective* will be on view in Contemporary Craft's main gallery through March 11, 2017. Over the past three decades, Eberle, a Pittsburgh-based ceramic artist, has explored and tested the limits of porcelain, with his prolific body of work ranging from classically inspired vessels to altered and deconstructed sculptures. This career retrospective brings works from the mid-1980s to the present into dialogue for the first time. Visit [www.contemporarycraft.org](http://www.contemporarycraft.org) for more details or to access the complete exhibition press release.

### ABOUT CONTEMPORARY CRAFT

Presenting contemporary art in craft media by regional, national, and international artists since 1971, Contemporary Craft offers cutting edge exhibitions focusing on multicultural diversity and non-mainstream art, as well as a range of studio workshops, community outreach programs, and a retail store. Through its mission of engaging the public in creative experiences through contemporary craft, the organization offers meaningful art opportunities for more than 145,000 people a year through four core values: providing vital support for artists; filling critical gaps in public education; sharing cross cultural perspectives; and using art to build community. Contemporary Craft is located at 2100 Smallman Street in the Strip District of Pittsburgh, PA. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. The satellite gallery is located in the “T” station lobby of BNY Mellon Center in downtown Pittsburgh, and is open daily from 6:00 am through midnight. Exhibitions and informal, hands-on art activities in the Drop-In Studio are always free to the public. For more information, visit [www.contemporarycraft.org](http://www.contemporarycraft.org) or call 412.261.7003.

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