



contemporary craft *news release*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Inspiring Evening with Pittsburgh Cultural Producers on Creativity and Pressing Social Topics

Explore the role of creativity for social services and journalism

Over 15,000 Pennsylvanians are known to be homeless either being on the streets, doubled up with family or friends, or in shelters, on any given day.¹ In addition to exploring the public issues of homelessness through Contemporary Craft's (CC) current exhibition - [Shelter: Crafting a Safe Home](#), CC decided to focus the next *The Space Between* session on the notion of home, access, and equity in Pittsburgh. **CC invited Gisele Fetterman, an access and equity advocate and the First Lady of Braddock, PA, and Douglas Heuck, a journalistic innovator and the founder of Pittsburgh Quarterly as the featured speakers on Thursday, November 16, 2017 at 6 PM.**

A salon-style speaker series, *The Space Between*, joins together fascinating local cultural producers in an evening of inspiring and revealing discussion. The theme of this event will focus on how creativity supports the speakers' work in social services and journalism and intends to activate a discussion on the topics of homelessness. During the event, featured speakers will talk about their backgrounds, the way they approach the creative process, their personal connections, and how they incorporate art into their work. The featured speakers will also engage the attendees in discussions through their personal journeys and CC's current exhibition, which the attendees are invited to arrive early to experience the exhibition before the event. *The Space Between* is free and open to the public at CC's Strip District gallery with RSVP on the website: <http://contemporarycraft.org/event/the-space-between-2017-11-16/>

The Space Between is presented in conjunction with *Shelter: Crafting a Safe*, a thought-provoking exhibition that explores the pressing public issues of displacement, housing insecurity, and the universally identified human need for shelter. Featuring 14 artists from the US and abroad, the exhibition examines creative responses to difficult topics through the inclusion of artworks that convey personal stories and experiences to demonstrate the local and worldwide impact insecure housing has on individuals and society. *Shelter* will be on view through February 17, 2018.

For additional details on *The Space Between*, please contact CC's Marketing Manager Stephanie Sun at ssun@contemporarycraft.org.

¹ "Homelessness in PA." PA Department of Community & Economic Development. <https://dced.pa.gov/housing-and-development/community-services/homelessness-in-pa/>.

October 12, 2017 THE SPACE BETWEEN INVITED SPEAKERS

Gisele Fetterman is an access and equity advocate and the First Lady of Braddock, Pennsylvania. She is the founder of Free Store 15104, which picks up surplus and donated goods and redistributed them to neighbors in need. Free Store 15104 aims to eradicate food and clothing insecurity, and currently serves close to 1,600 clients a month. Free Store 15104 inspired six spin off locations and 412 Food Rescue, a community wide effort co-founded by Fetterman to end hunger and reduce food waste by working with

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food retailers, wholesalers, and other food providers to rescue un-sellable, but perfectly good food to feed the food insecure. She is also the co-founder of For Good PGH, a non-profit that works to advocate inclusion and inspire kindness. Its first initiative, *Hello Hijab*, has received both national and international praise.

Douglas Heuck has been a Pittsburgh journalist since 1985. He spent 20 years at the Pittsburgh Press and Post-Gazette, with most of that time as an investigative reporter. He penned 13 newspaper series, ranging from living on the streets disguised as a homeless man to the last in-depth interview of polio pioneer Dr. Jonas Salk. Heuck's newspaper series received several national awards and three Keystone Distinguished Writing Awards, given annually for the best journalism in Pennsylvania. His series on the homeless was cited in the landmark media law case "Food Lion vs. ABC News."

In 2005, Heuck left the newspaper and founded Pittsburgh Quarterly magazine, judged the region's best magazine every year since it began publishing in 2006 by the Press Club of Western Pennsylvania. Pittsburgh Quarterly also has won a prestigious Folio Eddie Award, the global magazine industry's biggest context for editorial excellence. Heuck is also director of PittsburghToday, a benchmarking project that compares Greater Pittsburgh with 14 other regions in some 500 categories and produces in-depth journalistic reports on key regional issues.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Upcoming *The Space Between* Session:

Thursday, February 8, 6 - 7 PM. Featured speakers: Justin Strong and Aaron Regal.

FUNDERS

The Space Between is sponsored by Cohen & Grigsby, P.C. *Shelter: Crafting a Safe Home* is made possible by the Mary Hillman Jennings Foundation, The Pittsburgh Foundation, Staunton Farm Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, The Fine Foundation, the Brooks Foundation through the PNC Charitable Trusts Grant Review Committee, and Cohen & Grigsby. Media sponsored by 90.5 WESA, 91.3 WYEP, and NEXTpittsburgh. General operating support for Contemporary Craft is provided by the Allegheny Regional Asset District, the Elizabeth R. Raphael Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation, The Heinz Endowments, and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

ABOUT CONTEMPORARY CRAFT

Presenting contemporary art in craft media by regional, national, and international artists since 1971, CC 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, CC offers meaningful art opportunities for 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.

CC is located at 2100 Smallman Street in the Strip District of Pittsburgh, PA. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 AM to 5 PM. Exhibition and informal, hands-on art activities in the Drop-In Studio are always free to the public. Contemporary Craft is committed to making its exhibitions, programs, and services accessible to the public. For questions related to accessible accommodations, please contact us. For more information, visit <http://www.contemporarycraft.org> or call 412.261.7003.

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