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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Four Years of Spectacular Handcrafted Buckles On View at Contemporary Craft**

*A Selection of Works that Highlights Artists in the World Champion Belt Buckle competition*

PITTSBURGH, PA – April 2, 2018 – *Quadrennial: Four Years of Spectacular Buckles from the U.S. and Abroad* is an invitational exhibit that highlights a selection of work from the past four World Champion Belt Buckle competitions (WCBBC), with the most recent WCBBC juried by artists Bryan Petersen and Nash Quinn in 2016. *Quadrennial* will feature over 60 artists in the craft field of metalsmithing and highlights works in a variety of forms and techniques, including 3-D printing, lost wax casting, and lapidary, with traditional metalsmithing materials, plastics, fused glass on metal, exotic materials, and more. The artists featured in the exhibit comment on narrative themes, gender issues, politics, technology, religion, mythology, and mortality, among many other themes. *Quadrennial* will be on view at Contemporary Crafts’ Studio Gallery from April 7 – August 25, 2018.

*Quadrennial* highlights participants of WCBBC, which is an annual juried, online exhibit, highlighting contemporary work within the belt buckle format. Established in 2012, the WCBBC honors the history of art and the chronicle of title belts by inviting artists to conceive of their own narrative. Each year, more than 60 finalists’ works are on display at the championship’s virtual online gallery for a twelve-month period. It is the only exhibition of its kind that promotes contemporary art buckles and elevating the discussion on the forms a belt buckle can take. Competition participants are from across the globe. Finalists have come from national and international backgrounds, including the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Mexico, Turkey, and Costa Rica to name a few.

*Quadrennial*, which is curated by Bryan Petersen, the founder of WCBBC, was originally shown at the Helen E. Copeland Gallery in Bozeman, MT. Contemporary Craft is thrilled to showcase the belt buckle culture in Pittsburgh. The exhibition is free and open to the public.

ABOUT CONTEMPORARY CRAFT

Presenting contemporary art in craft media by regional, national, and international artists since 1971, Contemporary Craft (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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