



- Founded by Elizabeth R. Raphael in 1971, Contemporary Craft (CC) is a nonprofit, visual arts organization with a history of presenting nationally and internationally known contemporary artists who work in craft materials (clay, fiber, glass, metal, wood, mixed media, and found materials).
- Since moving into the Produce Terminal Building location in the Strip District in 1986, the organization has presented over 250 exhibitions featuring the work of more than 2,400 artists, produced more than 80 exhibition catalogs and brochures.
- CC is one of the few arts organizations in Western Pennsylvania that is free of charge. Its focus on contemporary crafts makes it very accessible since craft represents the materials and forms people use in everyday life. CC also offers a free, hands-on art activity developed by exhibiting artists for adults and children in its drop-in workshop area.
- In 2001, CC completed its second major renovation at its Strip District location, 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 artist-led classes, lectures and workshops are provided for both adult and student learners.
- CC was recognized with an Award of Distinction in 2018 by the American Craft Council, a biennial award that recognizes an organization, publication, school, or individual who has made significant contributions to the field of craft with a minimum of 25 years of service in the United States. CC is the first one and the only one to receive this award in Pittsburgh, PA.
- More than 35,000 people visit CC's Strip District location each year; with another 100,000 viewing its changing exhibits at the Contemporary Craft BNY Mellon Satellite Gallery located in the cultural district of Downtown Pittsburgh.
- At its main gallery in the Strip District location, CC focuses on national and international programming, offering two major exhibitions each year; the studio gallery features local, regional, and national programming, offering two to three exhibitions each year. At the BNY Mellon Satellite Gallery features local and regional programming with four to five exhibitions each year.
- CC regularly travels its exhibitions to other cities. In developing an exhibition, CC looks for a compelling idea, or a new voice, or a concept not previously exhibited. Successful past traveling exhibitions includes, [Mindful: Exploring Mental Health through Art](#), [Edward Eberle Retrospective](#), [Shelter: Crafting a Safe Home](#), and more.
- The Studio, CC's Education Center, features workshops taught by highly accomplished professional artists, including ten to twelve master workshops led by exceptional visiting artists. Workshops in paper arts, fiber, metal, and wood are the primary focus. CC has offered hundreds of workshops, seminars and other public programs.
- CC offers a variety of outreach programs through partnerships with social service agencies that address four target audiences: at-risk children and families, the elderly, and those experiencing homelessness. Its Museum/School Partnership with Southbrook Middle School was established in 1995, which infuses art throughout the school's curricula, allowing more than 400 middle school students annually to work firsthand with local artists in craft media.
- The Store at CC features and markets handcrafted artworks by more than 400 national and regional artists. Offerings include jewelry, ceramics, glass, tableware, textiles, ornaments, accessories, and furniture.
- The Lydon Emerging Artist Program was established in 2007 to recognize exceptional emerging contemporary craft artists and to bring their artwork to the consumer market. This yearlong retail program features, markets, and sells the work of one winner, who also receives a \$1000 prize, and four finalists.

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