

For Immediate Release:

Prepping Pittsburgh: A social justice project utilizing art to create positive change in the community

PITTSBURGH, PA - August 2021 – Contemporary Craft (CC) is excited to present *Prepping Pittsburgh: Art Sustaining Community*, an exhibition that showcases the collaborative project between artist George Bowes, 10 nationally recognized ceramicists, and Community Kitchen Pittsburgh (CKP). The exhibition will open at CC's BNY Mellon Satellite Gallery (500 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219) on August 7 and be on view through November 29, 2021. It is a companion exhibition to CC's *Food Justice: Growing a Healthier Community through Art* exhibition, opening September 10, 2021 at its main facility in Lawrenceville.

The *Prepping Pittsburgh* project began with George Bowes, a Galveston, TX based ceramic artist, who sees an analogy between the concept of making small prep bowls for cooking and how organizations prepare individuals to be active members of the community. By partnering with CKP, an organization that uses food to strengthen communities by turning it into a life-changing career, Bowes and 10 participating artists created 327 unique prep bowls with diverse styles and forms. Each bowl represents and honors a graduate of the CKP program. With the project, Bowes intends to amplify CKP's mission and programming in the region. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the prep bowls will be donated to CKP.

Bowes received his M.F.A. from the University of California at Davis and received his B.F.A. from the Cleveland Institute of Art. His work is featured in public and private collections, such as the Smithsonian American Art Museum, The Newark Museum, The Akron Art Museum, Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, and more. Bowes has gained recognition with individual fellowships from the Ohio Arts Council, and a National Endowment for the Arts Regional Visual Arts Fellowship Award.

Prepping Pittsburgh: Art Sustaining Community participating artists includes, George Bowes, Eleanor Anderson, Carole Ann Fer, Terry Gess, Louise Rosenfield, Jerry Solomon Jr., Judith Salomon, Yoko Sekino-Bove, Lynn Smiser Bowers, Jerilyn Virden, and Holly Walker. This exhibition is dedicated in loving memory to Rodrick Desmond Hawkins. Hawkins taught Bowes about, among other things, the transformational work of Catalyst Kitchens like Community Kitchen Pittsburgh.

CC's BNY Mellon Satellite Gallery is located in the lobby of the Steel Plaza T-Station in Downtown Pittsburgh. *Prepping Pittsburgh* is a contactless exhibition that is free and open to the public daily through midnight. For more information, please contact Mandy Wilson at mwilson@contemporarycraft.org.

Support for *Food Justice: Growing a Healthier Community through Art* is provided in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, and JENDOCO Construction Corporation. Media sponsors for this exhibition are NEXTpittsburgh, 90.5 WESA, and 91.3 WYEP. General operating support for Contemporary Craft is provided by Allegheny Regional Asset District, The Heinz Endowments, Henry L. Hillman Foundation, Opportunity Fund, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, the Elizabeth R. Raphael Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Jack Buncher Foundation, The Fine Foundation, Giant Eagle Foundation, Anonymous foundation, and by members of the *Heart of Craft* circle of donors. (As of May 2021)



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ABOUT CONTEMPORARY CRAFT

Presenting contemporary art in craft materials by regional, national, and international artists since 1971, Contemporary Craft offers cutting edge exhibitions focusing on multicultural diversity and contemporary art, as well as a range of artist-led studio workshops, community outreach programs, and a store. Located at 5645 Butler Street in Pittsburgh, PA, Contemporary Craft's exhibition and Drop-In Studio are free to the public. For questions related to accessible accommodations, please contact us at info@contemporarycraft.org or visit www.contemporarycraft.org. CC is currently closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, please check CC's website for updates.

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