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**CONTEMPORARY CRAFT ANNOUNCES POP! PERSPECTIVES ON POLYMER - A FIVE DAY CELEBRATION OF CONTEMPORARY WORKS IN POLYMER CLAY**

**PITTSBURGH, PA (March 2022)** - Contemporary Craft (CC) is pleased to announce *POP! Perspectives on Polymer*, a five-day celebration of contemporary work in polymer, June 25-29, 2022 at CC's main Lawrenceville location. *POP!* will feature four workshops along with virtual talks by some of the best polymer artists in the country, an exhibition of small works in polymer, and a curated feature in the Store. The opening reception will be held on Saturday, June 25, 6-8 PM, and will be free and open to the public.

*POP!*'s focus on workshops and the materiality of polymer makes this boutique event more than just a conference. Each participating artist was selected for their unique perspectives on polymer and the exciting ways they are moving the medium forward. "Contemporary Craft is thrilled to be launching this event. We're hopeful that this series will engage the craft community in dialogue around the medium, highlight exceptional work being done in polymer clay, and set the stage for future events of this kind," said Contemporary Craft's Executive Director, Rachel Rearick.

The featured instructor for the event is Jeffrey Lloyd Dever, whose pioneering techniques in polymer have made him one of the most respected artists in the field. His jewelry and sculptural objects have been shown in many national invitational exhibitions, and his works are represented in numerous private collections, galleries and museums.

For complete details on *POP! Perspectives on Polymer*, along with registration information, visit <https://contemporarycraft.org/studio/pop-perspectives-on-polymer/>.

**Workshops & Virtual Presentations**

**June 25-26**

**"Urban Spirit" with Jane Pellicciotto**

The urban environment is a vast trove of inspiration for your polymer clay endeavors—from industrial sites to cracks in the sidewalk to the patterns in a building's facade. In this workshop, we'll focus on the basics, such as color theory and mixing, proper curing (baking) methods, tools, finishing and findings. But we'll also focus on design principles, including rhythm, scale, contrast, balance and more—the building blocks to a successful piece of wearable art.

**"Shibori - from Textiles to Polymer Clay" with Debbie Jackson**

Learn a variety of dye-resist techniques and create a striking collection of colorful patterned veneers of polymer clay that resemble Shibori textiles! Debbie will begin this class with a brief talk about the history of the art of Shibori textile dyeing. She will show her beautiful collection of colorful Shibori fabrics, along with finished jewelry pieces for inspiration.

**June 27-29**

**"Hidden Magic" with Jeffrey Lloyd Dever**

Using a variety of Jeff's signature techniques, this class will focus on how to create sculptural necklaces with hidden magnetic clasps. We will explore a range of sculptural forms uniquely adapted for use in necklaces.

**"Small Sculpture and Installation Exploration" with Laura Tabakman**

Create three-dimensional polymer clay elements to make sculptures and installations. We will explore ways of combining polymer clay, wire, and other support materials. Students will learn how to make translucent-based canes, along with polymer clay sculpting techniques to create different kinds of plant life to build a vocabulary of organic elements that interpret nature.

In the evenings, CC will host virtual talks with polymer artists, including Joseph Barbaccia and The Gathering. Joseph Barbaccia will discuss his process of creating with polymer and how he uses technology in his practice. The Gathering will discuss their exhibition *Truth Be Told*, which was born from the group's conversations around racism in the United States. This exhibition will be on view at Songbird Artistry in Pittsburgh, beginning June 24.

For participants attending in-person workshops, the virtual presentations are included in the workshop registration. The presentations will also be live streamed in CC's largest studio for in-person attendees to enjoy together.

### **Exhibition and Store Feature**

The *POP!: Perspectives on Polymer* exhibition includes small works in polymer by Madiha Siraj, Dan Cormier, Jeffrey Lloyd Dever, and Joseph Barbaccia. It will be on view June 17 - August 27, 2022 in the Gerri Kay Exhibition Cases at CC's main Lawrenceville location. Admission is free for all exhibitions.

In addition to the workshops and exhibition, Contemporary Craft is also expanding the polymer offerings in the Store. A specially curated selection of artists will be featured and includes *Pop!* workshop instructors Jeffrey Lloyd Dever and Laura Tabakman.

### **ABOUT CONTEMPORARY CRAFT**

Contemporary Craft presents contemporary art in craft media by regional, national, and international artists. Contemporary Craft offers cutting edge exhibitions focusing on multicultural diversity and contemporary art, as well as a range of artist-led studio workshops, community engagement programs, and a store. Located at 5645 Butler Street in the Upper Lawrenceville neighborhood of Pittsburgh, PA, Contemporary Craft's exhibition and Drop-In Studio art activity are always free to the public. For more information, visit [www.contemporarycraft.org](http://www.contemporarycraft.org).