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ELIZABETH R. RAPHAEL FOUNDER'S PRIZE FINALISTS ANNOUNCED AT CONTEMPORARY CRAFT

PITTSBURGH, PA (March 2022) – The finalists for the 2022 Elizabeth R. Raphael Founder's Prize, established in 1997 in honor of Contemporary Craft (CC) founder Elizabeth Raphael, have been selected and will be included in the biennial juried exhibition *Transformation 11: Contemporary Works in Glass* (September 9, 2022 – March 18, 2023) in CC's Lawrenceville gallery. The winning artist will be announced and will be present to receive the \$5,000 cash prize at the public opening of the exhibition on Friday, September 9, 2022, from 5:30 – 8:00 PM.

The 2022 prize will be awarded in the category of glass, on the basis of an entry that has been created within the previous 12 months and addresses the theme of "transformation." The 17 finalists are asked to submit their final work by July 15, 2022. In addition to the prize-winning artist, a selection of entries will receive honorable mention recognition. "We are looking forward to the return of this flagship exhibition, which continually offers an opportunity to explore creative concepts and innovative approaches in contemporary craft, through the use of materials. It has been an honor to work with our jury to select a sampling of artwork from around the world to be shown here in Pittsburgh," said Rachel Rearick, executive director at Contemporary Craft.

The 2022 Raphael Prize finalists are: Dean Allison, Pittsburgh, PA; Eunsuh Choi, Rochester, WI; Donald Friedlich, Madison, WI; Michael Janis, Washington, DC; Lauren Kalman, Detroit, MI; David King, Danville, KY; Eriko Kobayashi, Carbondale, IL; Weston Lambert, Tacoma, WA; Patrick Martin, Emporia, KS; Hisayoshi Muto, Yatomi, Aichi, Japan; Aya Oki, San Bernardino, CA; Miroslava Ptackova, Zlín, Zlínský kraj, Czech Republic; David Schnuckel, Rochester, NY; Michaela Spruzinova, Ústí Nad Labem, brná, Czech Republic; Ben Wright, Stanwood, WA; Ayano Yoshizumi, Everard Park, SA, Australia; and Hoseok Youn, Toledo, OH.

The jury for the 2022 prize includes Anna Rothfuss, Project Development Manager, Derix Art Glass Consultants, LLC U.S., Portland, OR; Heather McElwee, Randi & L. Van V. Dauler, Jr. Executive Director, Pittsburgh Glass Center, Pittsburgh, PA; Alexandra Raphael, enameller, London, England; Catherine Raphael, metalsmith and writer, Pittsburgh, PA; Rachel Saul Rearick, Executive Director, and Kate Lydon, Director of Exhibitions, Contemporary Craft, Pittsburgh, PA.

For the exhibition, CC will publish a fully illustrated catalogue, featuring photo-documentation, biographical information and source materials on each of the finalists. To complement the exhibition, CC will also produce a short video on the prize-winning artist. During the fall of 2022, educational programs are planned to enhance visitors' understanding and enjoyment of the technique and materials used by the participating artists. A free hands-on art activity designed by one of the finalists will be offered in CC's Drop-In Studio.

Transformation 11: Contemporary Works in Glass and the Elizabeth R. Raphael Founder's Prize are made possible by Cathy Raphael, The George G Fund, and JENDOCO. Additional support is provided by the Allegheny Regional Asset District, The Heinz Endowments, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and the Elizabeth R. Raphael Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation.

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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.