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CONTEMPORARY CRAFT ANNOUNCES 12-HOUR WEAVE-A-THON

PITTSBURGH, PA (November 2023) – Contemporary Craft (CC) is excited to announce its first ever Weave-a-Thon on Friday, November 17, 12 PM – Midnight. During this 12-hour event, which is part fundraiser, part production studio, and part party, Pittsburgh-area weavers will design and weave dish towels, creating a sustainable alternative to mass-produced and disposable towels and napkins. These towels will then be available for sale in the Contemporary Craft Store the next day, with part of the proceeds going to the weavers.

Weave-a-Thon was inspired by CC's current exhibition, *Climate Awakening: Crafting a Sustainable Future*, and the desire to have a sustainable alternative to disposable paper products in the CC Store. At the same time, weaving students were looking for more opportunities to weave and remain a part of Contemporary Craft's vibrant fibers community. Weave-a-Thon was the perfect way to combine both objectives, while having fun and raising money for CC's Fiber Studio. Proceeds raised through the event will go toward a new loom for the weaving program.

Nine looms will be pre-warped and ready for weavers to work in one-hour shifts. Nearly 30 weavers have committed to more than 90 hours of weaving, many signing up for multiple-hour shifts. As the towels are completed, they will be tagged with the weaver's name. The towels will then be finished by volunteer sewers on Saturday, November 18 and placed in the CC Store. Each towel will sell for \$40, with the weaver receiving a \$20 artist commission.

"One of the most magical things I have experienced at Contemporary Craft has been watching the community of weavers grow over the last year and a half," said Allison Jones, CC Director of Education and Residencies. "Weave-a-Thon is such an exciting way to keep this community engaged in our Studios while also supporting the message of our current exhibition and our Store."

The public is welcome to stop by to cheer on the weavers from 12 – 9 PM. The entire event will also be livestreamed on CC's Instagram. In addition to purchasing a towel or stopping by during the event, there are several other ways people can get involved with Weave-a-Thon, including sponsoring a weaver, sponsoring the event, and donating food and drink to keep the weavers fed and hydrated.

For more information on the event and ways to get involved, visit <https://contemporarycraft.org/studio-2/weave-a-thon/>

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 engagement programs, and a store featuring work by top artists from across the country. Located at 5645 Butler Street in Pittsburgh, PA, Contemporary Craft's exhibitions are free to the public.