

CONTACT: Mandy Wilson, 412.465.1637 | mwilson@contemporarycraft.org

Contemporary Craft Announces the Raphael Endowment

PITTSBURGH, PA (August 2024) – Contemporary Craft is pleased to announce the creation of its first-ever endowment fund, the Raphael Endowment. This significant milestone in the organization's history has been made possible by a generous major gift from Cathy Raphael.

Cathy's relationship with Contemporary Craft dates back to its earliest roots. Her mother, Elizabeth “Betty” Rockwell Raphael, started The Store in Verona as a project of Riverview Community Action, creating a space that not only sold crafts from across the country but also housed The Sociable Workshop, where local artisans designed and created their work.

After completing her BA in metalsmithing from Syracuse University, Cathy returned to Pittsburgh and immersed herself in the creative environment. For 12 years, she worked as both a resident jeweler/designer in The Sociable Workshop and as a salesperson in The Store.

The Raphael Endowment will provide crucial long-term financial stability for Contemporary Craft, ensuring that the organization can continue to fulfill its mission of engaging the public in creative experiences through craft for generations to come.

Rachel Saul Rearick, Executive Director of Contemporary Craft, highlights the significance of the Raphael Endowment: “Cathy Raphael’s generous gift of an endowment is transformative for our organization. It will allow us to build on the history and strength of our organization and the field; while offering the stability to continually explore creative approaches to contemporary craft, engage with critical social issues, and support artists. Cathy’s commitment to this creative community reflects a profound belief in the power of craft to inspire, provoke thought, and bring about change. We are eternally grateful for her visionary support.”

The establishment of this endowment marks a new chapter in Contemporary Craft's legacy, building upon the vision of its founder and reinforcing its commitment to the craft community.

Individuals or organizations interested in contributing to the Raphael Endowment are encouraged to contact Leslie Riker, Donor Relations Manager, at 412-261-7003 or lriker@contemporarycraft.org.

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 exhibition and Drop-In Studio are free to the public.