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Contemporary Craft Unveils Reimagined Retail Store, Advancing Vision for Pittsburgh as a National Craft Destination

PITTSBURGH, PA (July 2026) — Contemporary Craft is proud to announce the transformation of its retail Store, the latest milestone in the organization's ongoing evolution as one of the nation's leading centers for contemporary craft. The Store's transformation will be unveiled at a celebratory re-opening on July 16, 2026 from 6:00 – 8:00 PM.

The redesigned Store follows significant expansions in Contemporary Craft's education and exhibition programming, and represents a key component of the organization's ambitious *Imagine More* capital campaign, which launched in February 2024.

Together, these programmatic categories are strengthening Pittsburgh's position as a city at the forefront of the craft field—offering unparalleled opportunities to see, make, and buy contemporary craft.

The reimagined retail environment in the Store will put a newfound emphasis on elevating the visibility and value of artist-made objects in everyday life. The return to this approach in retail is designed to help craft collectors, gift seekers, and casual shoppers discover exceptional handmade work by artists across the country, in the spirit of what our Founder Betty Rockwell Raphael imagined. Thoughtfully showcasing the beauty, functionality and artistry of contemporary craft, the redesigned Store will be a destination for encountering heirloom-quality, artist-made objects for the home.

"Craft occupies a unique place in our culture because it connects art to daily living, and here in Pittsburgh we have a longstanding relationship with materials like metal, glass, and textiles," said Rachel Rearick, Executive Director at Contemporary Craft. "Our redesigned store will look different than what you're used to from us — you'll see fewer artists represented, but larger collections of their work to choose from. That is intentional, so that we can do a better job of introducing you to their artistic practices and you can get a more intimate understanding of their work."

Allison Jones, recently named the Creative Retail and Residency Director, says "We're excited to not only bring the finest handmade objects into the Store, but to serve the mission of Contemporary Craft through our Store. By offering the work and telling the stories of artists who make their living through the creation of craft, we are supporting the creative economy of Pittsburgh and beyond."

The store's transformation arrives at a pivotal moment for Contemporary Craft. Following the *Imagine More* capital campaign, the organization launched [Pittsburgh is Craft](#), a collaborative initiative that aims to showcase the wealth of craft throughout the Pittsburgh region with partners like the Pittsburgh Glass Center, Union Project, Handmade Arcade, and more. These developments advance Contemporary Craft's vision of becoming a preeminent urban craft center where visitors can fully immerse themselves in the creative process—from experiencing groundbreaking exhibitions and hands-on learning opportunities, to purchasing extraordinary works by contemporary makers.

The retail store honors the organization's origins. Contemporary Craft was founded in 1971 by Elizabeth "Betty" Rockwell Raphael, who opened The Store for Arts and Crafts and People-Made Things in Verona, Pennsylvania, to create new opportunities for craft artists to exhibit and sell their work. What began as a small storefront dedicated to contemporary handmade objects grew into a nationally recognized institution that has championed craft artists for more than five decades.

As Contemporary Craft continues to grow, the store remains central to its mission of supporting artists, connecting communities, and demonstrating the enduring relevance of craft in contemporary life.

"From Betty Raphael's original store in Verona to our expanded campus in Lawrenceville, the thread connecting our history has always been a belief in the power of craft to enrich lives," said Rearick, "The redesigned store is both a celebration of that legacy and an investment in the future of artists, audiences, and Pittsburgh's role as a leader in the field."

To find the perfect gift or functional object for your own home, visit Contemporary Craft's Store in the Raphael Building, located at 5645 Butler Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201

Attend the reopening on July 16 from 6:00 - 8:00 PM to celebrate with us, meet a few of the artists represented in the store and enjoy some light refreshments. [More information can be found here.](#)

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 & 5688 Butler Street in Pittsburgh, PA, Contemporary Craft's exhibitions are free to the public.