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Contemporary Craft Announces *Textures of Being*

PITTSBURGH, PA (July 2026) – Contemporary Craft is pleased to announce its upcoming exhibition, *Textures of Being*, on view September 25, 2026 – January 16, 2027 in the Main Gallery. The exhibition will open with a free, public reception on Friday, September 25, 5:30 – 8:00 PM.

Textures of Being brings together 14 artists whose work honors the body—in all its variations, sensitivities and wisdom—to reimagine disability as both a form of freedom and a distinct, intimate lens through which the world is encountered, shaped, and perceived.

While 1 in 4 adults in the United States lives with a disability, our built environment and cultural systems continue to privilege an imagined bodily norm—often neglecting the rich variation of how bodies move, feel, perceive, and relate. *Textures of Being* shifts the focus on disability justice from compliance and accommodation to attuning to the sensory realities of disabled life—textures of resistance and adaptation, fragility and strength, constraint and imagination. Together, the exhibiting artists create a portrait of embodiment that moves beyond symbolic ‘inclusion’ and moves toward a fuller understanding of what it means to inhabit a body. *Textures of Being* invites viewers to slow down, to feel, to listen, and to recognize accessibility, inclusivity, and sensory difference as shared human concerns.

Exhibiting artists are Ange Altenhofen (Chariton, IA), Melissa Athey (Richmond, VA), Sookyung Augustin (Grand Rapids, MI), Patrick Bell (Baltimore, MD), Chelsea Clarke (Houston, TX), Erin S. Daily (Brooklyn, NY), Lohitha Kethu (Baltimore, MD), Selena [Len] Loomis (Chauncey, OH), Bhavna Mehta (San Diego, CA), Dominic Quagliozzi (Worcester, MA), Sierra Schweitzer (Pittsburgh, PA), Lydia Wickham (Circleville, OH), Jennifer Rose Wolken (Springfield, MO), and Sandie Chun-Shan Yi (Chicago, IL). Each exhibiting artist contributed artwork made with craft media such as fibers, metal, ceramics, or mixed media.

Of these 14 artists, Bhavna Mehta and Sandie Chun-Shan Yi were invited to participate by Yu-San Cheng, Contemporary Craft’s Director of Visual Engagement. The remaining 12 artists were selected from an open call juried by Cheng and guest juror Fran Ledonio Flaherty, a Deaf artist living in Pittsburgh. Flaherty is the creator of *Anthropology of Motherhood*, an ongoing curatorial project that engages the complex lived experiences of motherhood, care-giving, parenting, nurturing, and maternal labor.

“We are honored to work with these 14 artists, whose powerful and deeply personal works invite us to reconsider disability, access, and embodiment through a first-person lens,” says Cheng. “*Textures of Being* aims to create a space for vulnerability, solidarity, and reciprocity—one that fosters a deeper understanding of the lived experiences, creativity, and resilience of the disability community. Our partnership with the *Anthropology of Motherhood* will further expand this dialogue through a public forum that creates opportunities for deeper engagement with practitioners, artists, and individuals whose lived experiences inform the field.”

The *Textures of Being* Forum will be a day-long program on Saturday, October 24, held at Contemporary Craft in partnership with *Anthropology of Motherhood*. Through presentations, facilitated conversation, and an interactive activity, participants will explore accessibility not as an afterthought, but as a creative, relational, and institutional practice.

Immediately following the Forum, a free opening reception for *Textures of Being*'s accompanying exhibition, *Community Voices: Creative Citizen Studios* will be held. This exhibition will be on view in Contemporary Craft's Gerri Kay Exhibition Cases from October 23, 2026 – February 20, 2027 and will feature artwork made at Contemporary Craft by artists from Creative Citizen Studios (CCS). CCS is a Pittsburgh-based nonprofit that provides inclusive arts education and professional development for artists with intellectual and developmental disabilities. CCS has been a valued member of Contemporary Craft's *Partners in Craft* program since 2022.

Textures of Being is part of *Handwork 2026*, Craft in America's nationwide semiquincentennial collaboration showcasing the importance of the handmade and celebrating the diversity of craft that defines America.

Exhibition Events

Opening Reception: Friday, September 25, 5:30 – 8:00 PM. Free and open to the public. Join us as we celebrate the opening of *Textures of Being*. Light refreshments will be served.

Artist-Led Gallery Tour: Saturday, September 26, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM. [Registration encouraged](#). Free and open to the public.

***Textures of Being* Forum:** Saturday, October 24, 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM. \$20.00 registration fee, lunch included, coffee and tea provided. More information to come.

***Community Voices: Creative Citizen Studios* Opening Reception:** Saturday, October 24, 3:30 – 5:30 PM. Free and open to the public.

Gallery Tour: Saturday, November 14, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM. [Registration required](#). Free and open to the public.

Gallery Tour: Saturday, January 16, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM. [Registration required](#). Free and open to the public.

[The *Textures of Being* exhibition webpage 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.