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CONTACT: Kathryn Shriver, 412.465.1637 | kshriver@contemporarycraft.org

CONTEMPORARY CRAFT ANNOUNCES CRAFT-A-THON

PITTSBURGH, PA (October 2026) – Contemporary Craft (CC) is excited to announce its first annual Craft-a-Thon, scheduled for Saturday, November 14 from noon to midnight.

Craft-a-Thon is modeled off of CC's past Weave-a-Thon and Torch-a-Thon events, but this year adds Sew-a-Thon, Forge-a-Thon, and Turn-a-Thon, and a sensory-friendly portion of Weave-a-Thon from 9 – 11 AM.

This marathon making event is part fundraiser, part production studio, and part party, where teachers, students, and artists from the CC community will work into the night to raise funds in support of improvements and upgrades for each CC studio.

In the Fleischner Family Fibers Loft, Weave-a-Thon participants will weave dish towels as Sew-a-Thon sewists hem the weaver's towels and make handmade pouches. In the Metals Studios, metalsmiths will create ornaments, while participants in the Blacksmithing Studio will forge steel wall hooks. In the Windgate Wood Studio, turners will make wooden candle holders. Participating makers will work in shifts until midnight to create as many hand-crafted items as possible in one day.

Items created at Craft-a-Thon will be available for purchase on Friday, November 20 during CC's annual CRAFTED holiday shopping event. All items made will be sold for $40 each, and 50% of the proceeds will go back to the makers who created them. The remaining 50% will support Contemporary Craft's exhibitions, education programs, and community initiatives.

As Contemporary Craft's studio programs continue to grow following its 2025 expansion, Craft-a-Thon is a reflection of CC's bustling community. This includes growing affinity groups like CC's volunteer LOOM Club and SEW Club, as well as support from outside organizations like Allegheny Metals Collective and Turners Anonymous. This event will offer artists, students, and teachers past and present in all of CC's studios an opportunity to come together, have fun, and raise money for the studios.

"Weave-a-thon began as what felt like a dare," says Senior Education Manager, Jamie Boyle, "when Allison Jones posed "Weave-a-thon" as a "what-if" in 2023. But our small studio team, alongside our deep-rooted fibers community, went right for it, calling it the "first annual" before the clock even struck noon that November day. What Weave-a-thon—and now all of the 'thons—are growing into is a super party and a beautiful celebration of all of our studios and our growing communities…The 'thons are an opportunity to mark how far we have come, while keeping an eye and heart on the future."

There are currently 64 makers signed up for the events. The public is welcome to stop by to cheer on participating makers from 12 – 9 PM. In addition to purchasing an item at CRAFTED or stopping by during the event, there are several other ways people can get involved, including sponsoring a specific maker, sponsoring a specific ‘Thon, and donating food and drink to keep the participants fed and hydrated.

For more information on the event and ways to get involved, visit https://contemporarycraft.org/studio-2/craft-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 & 5688 Butler Street in Pittsburgh, PA, Contemporary Craft’s exhibitions are free to the public.