



EDUCATION @ MESA ARTS CENTER

# MESA CONTEMPORARY ARTS MUSEUM



**44th Annual Contemporary Craft Exhibition**  
February 10-April 23, 2023

Contemporary Craft | Tradition and Innovation  
Grades: K-4



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## ABOUT MESA CONTEMPORARY ARTS MUSEUM

Mesa Contemporary Arts (MCA) Museum is a visual arts exhibition space committed to the presentation, interpretation, collection, documentation and preservation of contemporary visual arts with a special focus on traditional media. Dedicated to presenting exceptional regional, national and international exhibitions, MCA Museum provides support and advancement to artists world-wide through solo, group and juried exhibitions while promoting educational opportunities within our community.

## ABOUT THE 44th ANNUAL CONTEMPORARY CRAFTS EXHIBITION

Highlighting the finest in contemporary crafts from across the country, MCA Museum's annual contemporary crafts exhibitions have become a benchmark for innovation and quality. Representative of traditional craft medium including ceramics, fibers, basketry, metals, wood, glass, jewelry, papermaking and book arts, this exhibition showcases artworks by 40 artists, representing 11 states.



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### MESA CONTEMPORARY ARTS MUSEUM WELCOME!



Ali Schorman (Chandler, AZ)  
*Blue, Green, Pink Vases, 2022*  
Ceramic, Sizes vary.

**THANK YOU** for choosing to visit MCA Museum and selecting the **Contemporary Craft: Tradition and Innovation Tour**. Whether in-person or remote video tour, please enjoy this resource guide to stay connected to our Spring 2023 season.

We have created pre and post visit activities to make for a fun exploration into our **44th Annual Contemporary Craft** exhibition. Please visit the link below to see the exhibition and download a copy of our seasonal craft catalog.

**[www.mesaartscenter.com/museum.com](http://www.mesaartscenter.com/museum.com)**

Our focus is to guide students in the discovery and discussion of innovative expressions using traditional methods of creating crafts. We will encourage students to use observation, experimentation and critical thinking to make connections between the visual arts and their daily lives.

### TOUR ETIQUETTE

- ◆ Cameras and recording devices without flash may be used during the tour.
- ◆ Please place large handbags and backpacks at the lobby desk.
- ◆ Eyes on the art; hands off the art.
- ◆ Please use inside voices.
- ◆ Please walk while in the museum.
- ◆ Stay with your group.
- ◆ Questions and discussions are encouraged and guided by tour guides and Docents.



# EDUCATION @ MESA ARTS CENTER

## MESA CONTEMPORARY ARTS MUSEUM CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

### Contemporary Craft | Tradition and Innovation

#### Arizona Academic Standards in the Arts

*These standards can be achieved through tour participation, discussion questions and/or activities included in the study guide.*

#### VISUAL ARTS

**VA.RE.7.3a:** Use art-specific vocabulary to speculate about processes an artist used to create a work of art. **3b:** Determine messages communicated by an image.

**VA.PR 9:4:** Evaluate an artwork based on given criteria.

**VA.PR 9:5:** Recognize differences in criteria used to evaluate works of art depending on styles, genres, and media.

**VA.RE 7:7:** Cite specific evidence from an artwork and relevant evidence from the context to support an interpretation of the mood, message or meaning of that artwork.

**VA.RE 8:8:** Create a convincing and logical argument to support an evaluation of art by citing both evidence visible in the artwork and published verbal information about the artwork or about the artist who made it.

**VA.RE 8:HS Proficient:** Interpret an artwork or collection of works, supported by relevant and sufficient evidence found in the work and its various contexts.



#### LANGUAGE ARTS

**P3-8SL.1:** Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions with diverse partners on *topics and texts*, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

**6-8.L.6:** Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

**9-12.SL.1:** Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions with diverse partners on *grades 9–10 topics, texts, and issues*, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

#### MATH

**4.MP.7:** Look for and make use of structure.

**4.G.A.3:** Recognize a line of symmetry for a two-dimensional figure as a line across the figure such that the figure can be folded along the line into matching parts. Identify line-symmetric figures and draw lines of symmetry.

**4.G.A.1:** Draw points, lines, line segments, rays, angles (right, acute, obtuse), and perpendicular and parallel lines. Identify these in two-dimensional figures.



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## MESA CONTEMPORARY ARTS MUSEUM CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS Contemporary Craft | Tradition and Innovation

### SOCIAL STUDIES

**S1:C1:PO3:** Use primary source material and secondary source materials to study people and events from the past.

**S4:C4:PO4:** Discuss elements of cultural of a community in areas studied.

### SCIENCE

**S4:C4.L1U1.5:** Develop and use models to explain that plants and animals (including humans) have internal and external structures that serve various functions that aid in growth, survival, behavior, and reproduction.

**S4:C4.L4U1.11:** Analyze and interpret environmental data demonstrate that species either adapt and survive, or go extinct over time.

### Art Making Standards:

#### VISUAL ARTS

**VA.CR.1.3a:** Create an imaginative artwork and add details.

**VA.CR.2.3a.** Create artwork using a variety of artistic processes, materials, and approaches.

**VA.CR.2.4a:** Develop technical skills and explore art-making approaches.

**VA.CR.1.5a:** Combine ideas to generate an innovative idea for art-making.

**VA.CR.3.a.6:** Demonstrate openness in trying new ideas, materials, methods, and approaches in making works of art and design.

**VA.CN.3.7:** Reflect on and explain important information about personal artwork in an artist statement or another format.

**AV.CR.2.8c c:** Select, organize, and design images and words to make visually clear and compelling presentations.





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### PRE-TOUR & POST TOUR CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Included in this resource guide are a variety of activities created to correspond with the Arizona Academic Standards to enhance the students' growth, listening skills, interpretation, discussion and overall comprehension.

#### Questions to Ponder...

**Question 1** – What are traditional crafts? Name six kinds of traditional crafts. Identify objects made of clay, wood, fiber, glass, metal, and jewelry.

(Grades K-4.SL.1, K-4.SS.4)

**Question 2** – What kinds of crafts do you see in your everyday life? Do you know anyone who makes craft art?

(Grades K-4.SL.1, K-4.SL.4)

#### Activities to Explore...

##### Pre-Tour Activity: Look and Draw

What is craft? Show examples of craft art on the white board. Browse through the digital *44th Annual Contemporary Craft* catalog and show examples of clay, wood, fiber, metal and glass. Look around your classroom and write a list of objects that are made of mediums associated with craft art such as clay, wood, fiber, metal, and glass. How many items did you come up with? Are all of these crafts used in an “useful” or utilitarian way or more for interest and decorative purpose? Have each student draw a picture of one object from this list that is utilitarian and one object that is decorative. Discuss the differences with each student.

Standards Implemented: Grades K-4:VA.PR 9:5; K-4.SL.4      Approximate time: 45 - 60 min

Materials: paper, pencils, colored pencils, craft vocabulary words, Pre-Tour pages 7 & 8  
Visit [www.mesaartscenter.com/museum](http://www.mesaartscenter.com/museum) to download a copy of the *44th Annual Contemporary Craft* Catalog.

Visit artists Zach Gordon at [www.zachgordonceramics.com](http://www.zachgordonceramics.com) and Ali Schorman @ali\_schorman on Instagram, to see examples of useful and decorative artwork made in clay.

##### Post Tour Activity: Now It's Your Turn!

Discover another form of craft art with learning to weave. Follow instructions for a Post Tour Activities: *Create a Weaving*. Fiber artist, Connie Lippert, creates beautiful wall hangings by selecting colors of yarn and making zig zags and squiggle lines to convey feelings and purpose in her artworks. Visit her website at [www.connielippertart.com](http://www.connielippertart.com)

Standards implemented: VA.CR.1.3a; VA.CR.3.a.6; VA.CR.2.4a  
Approximate time: 2 class periods. Materials are listed.



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### PRE-TOUR DISCUSSION: What is Craft?



Gene Swanstrom (Mesa, AZ)  
*Tranquility*, 2022  
Stoneware and copper, 17 x 14 x 11 inches

#### Craft is...

Contemporary craft is an artistic medium, or kind of artwork like painting, drawing or sculpture. Craft is based in materials and usually made from clay, wood, fiber, metal, glass, or paper. A piece of contemporary craft is often mixed-media, combining two or more kinds of materials. Contemporary craft is usually made as an expressive piece of art but can also be an aesthetic celebration of skill in a functional or ceremonial decorative object.

Contemporary craft grew out of the tradition of artisans making functional objects like quilts, wooden tools and books. The British Arts and Crafts movement of the 19<sup>th</sup> century elevated the decorative craft of tradesmen to art that expresses themes and concepts in an artistic manner.



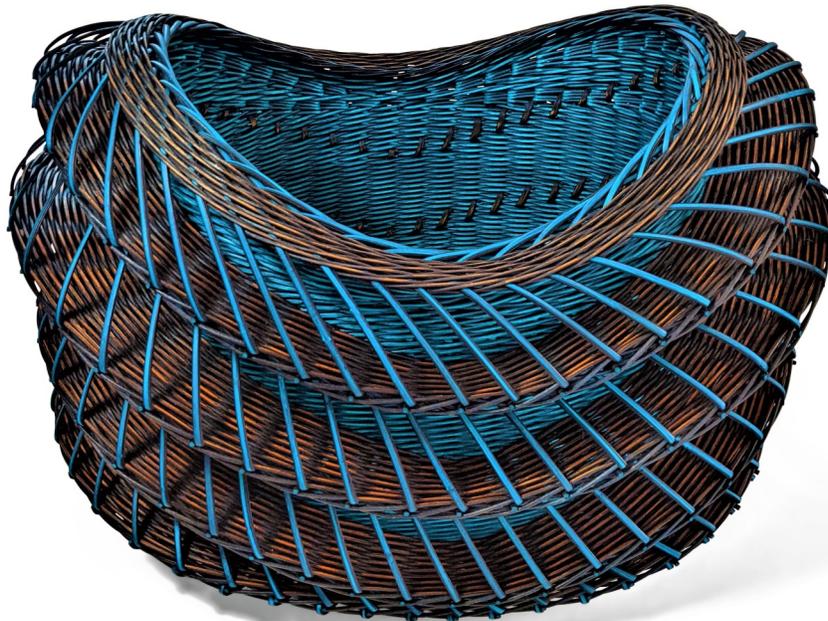
J. Paul Fennell (Scottsdale, AZ)  
*Acacia Waves*, 2021,  
Wood turned Acacia, 10 x 7 x 7  
inches



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### PRE-TOUR DISCUSSION: Vocabulary Words

- ◆ **Aesthetic:** The quality, sensation or meaning people can experience when looking at a work of art.
- ◆ **Content:** The essential meaning, significance or aesthetic value of an artwork; is it useful or decorative.
- ◆ **Craft:** A craft is an activity such as weaving, carving, or pottery that involves making things skillfully by hand, often in a traditional way.
- ◆ **Function:** The relationship of the art it takes based upon its intent and purpose.
- ◆ **Media/medium:** Materials and tools used by and artist to create the work.

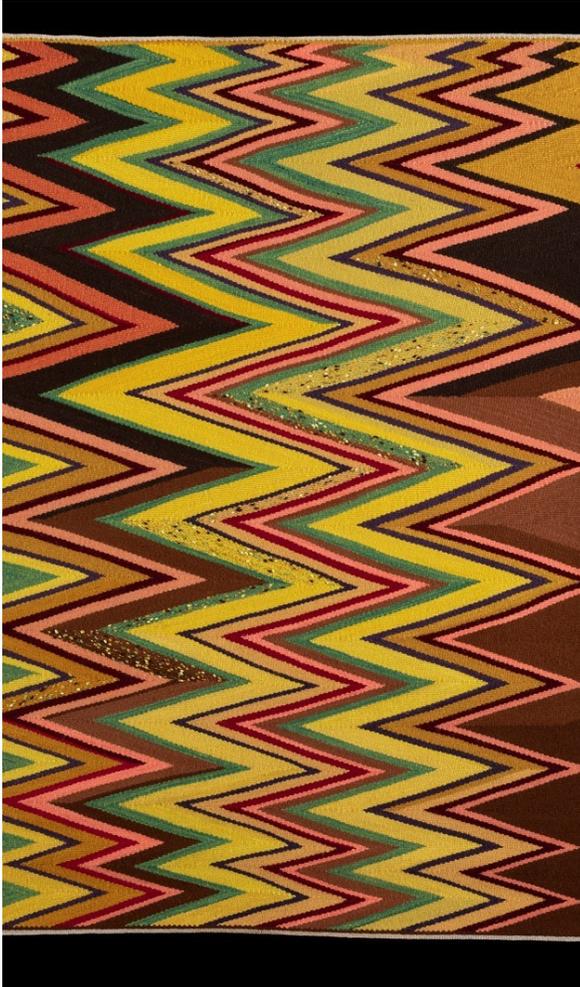


Peta Tinay (Orinda, CA) *Vessel 3*, 2021, Round reed and cane,  
16 x 28 x 18 inches



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### POST TOUR CLASSROOM ACTIVITY: Weaving



#### TIME:

- 2 class periods or 2 hours

#### GOALS:

- To introduce the basic skill of weaving
- To introduce the concept of using color and line to convey emotion or meaning

Connie Lippert (Seneca, SC)

*Frack*, 2019, Fiber, natural dyes, 58 x 40 inches.

Weaving is an ancient skill long used in the utilitarian production of cloth and baskets. As a contemporary craft, weaving can be used to create expressive and graphic works of art. Traditional methods of weaving have changed little over the centuries and hand weaving is still done today by artisans making fine cloth. The weaving artists in the *44th Annual Contemporary Craft* exhibition use color and line to convey meaning. After viewing the artworks, try your hand at weaving. See if you can convey a feeling (happy, sad, worried, energetic) with your choice of color and line.



## EDUCATION @ MESA ARTS CENTER

### POST TOUR CLASSROOM ACTIVITY: Weaving

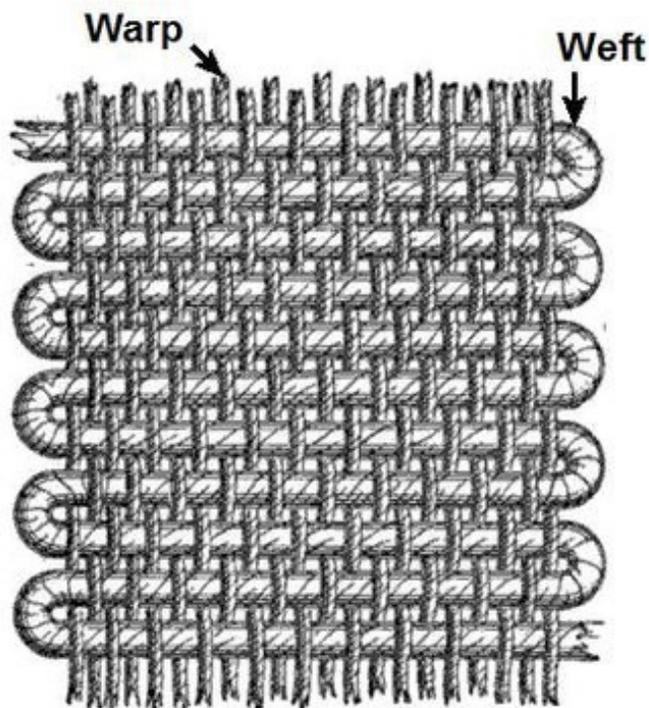
#### VOCABULARY WORDS:

**Utilitarian:** An object made to be useful and practical. Purpose is most important in a utilitarian object, but the object can also be beautiful

**Warp:** The threads going vertically and attaching to the loom in a woven piece

**Weaving:** A method of interlacing two distinct threads or yarns to create cloth

**Weft:** The weaving threads (usually yarn) that cross horizontally, going over and under the warp threads





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### POST TOUR CLASSROOM ACTIVITY: Weaving

#### SUPPLIES:

- Cardboard looms (\*purchased or made)
- Yarn or thin fabric strips
- Scissors, tape
- Large plastic needles

\*Purchase inexpensive student looms at Dick Blick Art Supplies. The following is best for:

Older students

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/cardboard-loom/>

Younger students

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/wide-notch-cardboard-loom/>

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

- Warp the looms.
- Choose three colors of yarn or fabric strips, making sure to get at least one in a contrasting color.
- Thread the first color on a large plastic needle and begin to weave from one side of loom.
- Weave the yarn over and under, over and under the warp threads, pulling the yarn all the way through when the other side is reached. Start back the other direction and continue till yarn is used up or color is changed.
- Be prepared to explain your color choices and what emotion you hoped to convey.
- This website has clear instructions for warping, weaving and removing the project: <https://www.theweavingloom.com/beginners-guide-to-weaving/>



Michael F. Rohde (Westlake Village, CA)

*reCascade*, 2021

Woven hand-dyed cotton, 54 x 32 inches.



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### SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE!

We'd love to hear your students' response to our tours.  
We especially appreciate pictures and letters!

**480.644.6561 | [mesacontemporaryarts@mesaartscenter.com](mailto:mesacontemporaryarts@mesaartscenter.com)**