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Celebrating the Evolution of Craft: Mentors, Apprenticeships, Inspirations Honored With New Exhibition at League of NH Craftsmen OPENING NIGHT November 7th!

CONCORD, NH – The League of NH Craftsmen is proud to offer an intimate, behind-the-scenes exploration into the development of our members' work through a unique set of exhibits on display this month. Artists from Maine and New Hampshire, focused on sharing knowledge and fostering new ideas, as well as a ceramic artist celebrating his journey and the artists that have been integral to his career path are showcased in two exhibitions at the League's Headquarters Exhibition Gallery in Concord, NH.

Mentors + Apprentices: Work from the 2025 Craft Apprentice Program celebrates the culmination of a seven-month journey of growth, creativity, and learning between mentor craft artists and apprentices from Maine and New Hampshire. ***Inspirations, Opportunities, Influence: Making a Life in Craft*** allows League craftsman Stephen Procter to tell the story of his journey as an artist, from early artistic encounters to mentorship, community support, and the exchange of expertise with emerging makers.

During the Art Walk event in downtown Concord the League will feature an opening reception November 7 with a free public reception from 5–7 PM, ***Mentors + Apprentices: Work from the 2025 Craft Apprentice Program*** features media including natural dyeing and hand weaving, wood firing, hand-built and wheel-thrown ceramics, rug hooking, glassblowing, and blacksmithing. During the opening event, NH fiber artists Pam Bartlett and Lynda Hadlock will offer rug hooking demonstrations, providing insight into one of the state's featured apprenticeship pairings.

Also running through December 5, ***Inspirations, Opportunities, Influence: Making a Life in Craft*** reflects League ceramic artist Stephen Procter's journey as a maker, celebrating the community of artists, mentors, and students who have shaped his creative life. The exhibition features work from artists across his "circle of influence," including Alan Steinberg, Ken Pick, Mark Hewitt, Natalie Blake, and Richard Foye among his inspirations; collaborators and peers such as Alex Bernius, Tori Motyl, Zoe Kelley, and Rose van Zijl; and students whose evolving voices he has helped nurture. Artist Tori Motyl will share remarks during the November 7 opening about her own artistic path and connection to the exhibition's themes. **Together, the two exhibitions offer a deeply personal and interconnected view of the craft community — one that honors tradition, celebrates mentorship, and demonstrates the enduring power of shared creativity.**

The exhibits offer a deeper dive into the stories and process behind these artists' work and motivation.



“The creation of craft is such a personal experience - seeing the unfolding of these artistic and professional relationships is truly moving,” says Kate Saunders, Executive Director of the League of NH Craftsmen. “We are grateful for this continued partnership between the League and the Maine Craft Association. We have a front row seat for the kind of education that can only be described as transformative, both for the apprentices as well as the mentors. The League was founded in part to ensure that craft traditions would be passed on, and this program is an important way for us to continue that legacy. And the exhibition curated by Stephen Procter allows a person to see all of those that surround, support, and inspire an individual to move forward from the initial idea of being a working artist to ‘Making a Life in Craft.’ While Steve’s experiences are chronicled here, it really speaks to the reality of so many others as well.”

Opening Reception and Gallery Hours:

Following a free **public opening reception on November 7th from 5-7 pm**, the works in both exhibitions will be available Monday-Thursday, 9-4pm at the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen’s Headquarters’ Exhibition Gallery location at 49 South Main Street in Concord, NH. Guests may also visit during Concord’s Midnight Merriment event on December 5th when the gallery will be open 4-9 PM. Some exhibition items are available for purchase.

About the League of NH Craftsmen

The League of NH Craftsmen is a non-profit, craft education organization. Its mission is to advance, cultivate and champion excellence in fine craft. The League pursues that mission through educational programming, leadership initiatives, marketplace strategies and support services. The League represents the *signature of excellence* in fine craft, through the work of its juried members, and its rigorous standards for self-expression, vision, and quality craftsmanship.

For more information about this exhibition and the League of NH Craftsmen, including how to become a member and our network of retail galleries across the state, please call (603) 224-3375, email nhleague@nhcrafts.org or visit nhcrafts.org

About the Craft Apprentice Program and Maine Crafts Association

The Maine Crafts Association builds upon Maine’s rich craft traditions by nurturing a vibrant, supportive, inclusive craft community with educational programs and resources. Founded in 1983, The Maine Crafts Association is dedicated to serving a diverse network of Maine craft artists through celebrating accomplishments, connecting the community, advancing studio practices and growing businesses. Their goal is to lead and contribute to an arts ecosystem in Maine that benefits from and supports healthy, balanced, thriving studio practices and businesses of all Maine craft artists.

Find out more about Maine Crafts by visiting mainecrafts.org

Learn more about the Craft Apprentice Program at MaineCap.org