



**Media Contact:**

Billy Cook

[billy@enroutemarketing.com](mailto:billy@enroutemarketing.com)

239-734-5150 (m)

**CRAFTNOW PHILADELPHIA EXPLORES *ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS*  
AT ITS SEVENTH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM**

Promotional images and graphics live [HERE](#)

**October 13, 2021, Philadelphia, PA** - For the last seven years, [CraftNOW Philadelphia](#) has hosted CraftMONTH, a series of events in November alongside the [Philadelphia Museum of Art Craft Show](#), to celebrate and showcase Philadelphia's contemporary craft scene.

CraftNOW was founded in 2014 by a consortium of individuals, galleries, museums, universities, retailers, and civic organizations. November, proclaimed as "CraftMONTH" by the City of Philadelphia, inspires CraftNOW's widespread and diverse celebration of the region's rich legacy of craft, its internationally-recognized contemporary craft scene, and its important role as an incubator for arts based in wood, clay, fiber, metal, and glass.

On Friday, November 5, CraftNOW's free annual symposium – a signature event of Philadelphia's CraftMONTH – will be hosted in-person at the [Center for Architecture](#) (1218 Arch Street). CraftNOW will also stream the program [virtually](#) to allow for national and international audiences to take part and learn about Philadelphia's innovation in craft. The symposium is free and open to the public.

The symposium's theme, *Environmental Effects*, will examine how communities and interiors shape our experiences, sustainability issues are highlighted through craft, and the impact of our contemporary material culture. CraftNOW will host a series of presentations complemented by shorter, moderated panels led by curators, experts, and artists throughout the afternoon.

"This year's theme was inspired by a combination of critical issues in craft and our collective culture," said Leila Cartier, Executive Director of CraftNOW. "Climate change and social reform are addressed through contemporary craft practices and exhibitions. We are exploring how the objects in our homes have been central to our lived experiences over the last year and, on the opposite end of the spectrum, how craft is often responsive to ecological challenges."

The symposium will culminate in a keynote address from **Dr. Kelli Morgan**, a curator, educator, and social justice activist specializing in American art and visual culture. A critical race historian, her interdisciplinary research and curatorial work examines and theorizes how American artists, artwork, and institutions can challenge and rectify systemic racism. Over the course of her career, Dr. Morgan has taught at the Tyler School for Art and Architecture at Temple University, Wayne State University, and the University of Michigan. Additionally, she's held curatorial positions at the Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, the Birmingham Museum of Art, and the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts.

CraftNOW's *Environmental Effects* Symposium will take place on Friday, November 5, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Advanced registration for both in-person and virtual attendance is required. Click [HERE](#) for in-person registration and [HERE](#) to join via Zoom. To ensure the safety of everyone attending in person,

guests attending in-person are required to wear masks and provide proof of vaccination. Seating will also be limited to 50 guests during presentations to allow for social distancing. To learn more about *Environmental Effects Symposium*, please visit the CraftNOW website: [www.craftnowphila.org/symposium/](http://www.craftnowphila.org/symposium/).

**Additional CraftMONTH event highlights – click [HERE](#) for a complete list of events and exhibitions.**

**[The 45th Annual Philadelphia Museum of Art Craft Show](#) | Friday, November 5 - Sunday, November 7**

Location: Philadelphia Convention Center

Cost: Prices vary – click [HERE](#) for more details

This premier show and sale of contemporary craft and design includes 195 of the finest and most dynamic craft artists in the United States, selected by an esteemed panel of craft experts. All work is for sale, and the artists receive 100% of their sale proceeds. The 2021 Show will be a combination of in-person and online-only participation, with 170 artists appearing in person at the Convention Center and the balance online only through the Show's website.

Website: <https://www.pmacraftshow.org/>

**[CraftNOW Create](#) | Saturday, November 6, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Location: Smith Memorial Playground (3500 Reservoir Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19121)

Cost: Free

The seventh annual [CraftNOW Create](#) is a free experience featuring demonstrations that provide step-by-step instructions on how to create nine crafts ideal for elementary-age students. CraftNOW will host this daylong, family-friendly event at the Smith Memorial Playground and limit capacity around the demonstration area to ensure participants' safety. CraftNOW Create is sponsored by the [Joseph Robert Foundation](#).

**[CraftNOW Philadelphia's 2021 Fundraiser Event and Auction](#) | Wednesday, November 17, 5 to 9 p.m.**

Location: 1800 North American Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122

Cost: Tickets are \$150 per person.

Join us for CraftNOW Philadelphia's 2021 Fundraiser! This special auction and in-person tour unites Philadelphia's best-known artists and showcases one of the city's newest creative spaces. Proceeds support our CraftMONTH programming, economic development initiatives, and youth education. Artists and organizations have been invited to retain 50% of auction proceeds, and many have generously chosen to donate their contributions in full. The auction will close at 9:00 p.m. on November 17, following in-person tours of NextFab and The Neon Museum of Philadelphia. Select auction items will be on view during this event. Advance registration of the auction or tours is required.

Registration: <https://craftnow2021.givesmart.com/>

**[Craft Forms 2021 Preview Party](#) | Friday, December 3, 6 to 10 p.m.**

Location: Wayne Arts Center (413 Maplewood Ave, Wayne, PA 19087)

Cost: TBA

CraftNOW traditionally closes CraftMONTH with Wayne Art Center's *Craft Forms: An International Juried Exhibition of Contemporary Craft*. This exhibition returns with a special preview party hosted at the Wayne Art Center's Davenport Gallery on December 3, starting at 6 p.m. Check the Wayne Arts Center [website](#) for the latest updates regarding this year's Craft Forms Preview Party.

###

#### About CraftNOW

CraftNOW was founded by a consortium of individuals, galleries, museums, universities, retailers, and civic organizations. Though diverse in background, CraftNOW has been united in its desire to capitalize upon Philadelphia's outstanding resources and highlight the city's continuing role in defining the future of craft. With its inaugural events in 2015, CraftNOW began its mission to showcase the city's community and create opportunities for the public to engage directly with the handmade. For more information on CraftNOW visit [www.craftnowphila.org](http://www.craftnowphila.org). CraftNOW is made possible through a collaborative partnership with University of the Arts serving as fiscal agent.