

**“Seeing the Other”  
A juried exhibit of fine craft**

The Long Island Craft Guild is pleased to present an opportunity for fine craft artists in the tri-state area to exhibit their work in the prestigious Jeannie Tengelsen Gallery of the Art League of Long Island. Artists working in clay, fiber, glass, metal-jewelry, paper, wood or mixed media are invited to apply.

For this show, we urge craft artists to really look at their subjects or their materials with fresh eyes to create a piece that connects you to it in a new or more profound way. Whether you are working in glass, fiber, wood, paper, clay or metal, for this exhibit you might leave off a step, add a process, blend in a new element or turn it upside down, so you can see its “other-ness.” Use your material in a different way: clay jewelry, collaged fiber, metal cups, etc.

Or consider a subject (or medium) you have never explored: the stars and planets, dreams, loss, another culture, mathematics, or anything else in your imagination to which you can connect your creativity.

Van Gogh describes this idea in a letter to Theo van Gogh from 1882, referring to his painting “Roots”: “Frantically and fervently rooting itself, as it were, in the earth, and yet being half torn up by the storm. I wanted to express something of life’s struggle. . . in those gnarled black roots with their knots. . . I am seeking. I am striving. I am in it with all my heart.”

Form a connection at the core: feeling the Other, being the Other, or imagining being the Other, while still holding on to yourself. The Other could be another human being, another culture, another living thing, or an inanimate material that pulses with positive and negative energy such as colored yarns or bright gemstones. Go beneath the surface of the subject in order to feel its essence.

The philosopher Martin Buber discussed this principle in “I and Thou,” his seminal work from 1937. One of his main points in relation to the subject of an artwork is that what the artist sees, in nature, in humanity, or in even just the materials we use to create our work, needs to be more than an “it,” more than an object of contemplation. Buber explains, “This is the eternal origin of art that a human being confronts, a form that wants to become a work through him. Not a figment of his soul but something that appears to the soul and demands the soul’s creative power.”

There are many renowned artists and craftspeople who have devoted their life’s work to this concept: George Nakashima, Ruth Asawa, Robert Rauschenberg and Peter Voulkos are a few. They produced pieces that opened doors to new possibilities for working outside the box.

Stretch yourself to really “see the other.” Henri Matisse put it this way, “The essential thing is to work in a state of mind that approaches prayer.”

We hope this helps you start considering a few exciting new pieces. Artists are encouraged to submit a brief statement (100 words maximum) about each piece. These statements and images of accepted artwork will be published in a catalogue when the exhibit opens. Submission details are in the prospectus.