

# Craft exhibition features works of longtime artists

**Shannon Boklaschuk**  
Saskatoon Express

**A** Saskatchewan Craft Council (SCC) exhibition is celebrating the creations of 17 artists who have been working in the area of fine craft for four decades.

Many of the artists included in the show, which is entitled Continuum, have a longtime association with the craft council, stemming back to its inception.

In a curatorial statement, curator June J. Jacobs wrote that over the years, she has watched the artists "grow and challenge themselves in the creative process."

"The works selected for Continuum represent the strengths of the artists as they have produced bodies of work over a 40-year period. From the many works chosen for this exhibition, these are but a few examples from each of the 17 artists that depict a wealth of creativity, a mastering of technical skills which alludes to their individual commitment to their craft, and to the need to explore new ideas and persevere over uncertain times," stated Jacobs, an SCC member and the owner of the Hand Wave Gallery in Meacham.

Stephanie Canning, an exhibitions and education coordinator with the SCC, said each of the 17 artists has between two and four different works included in the show that represent different time periods of their practice.

"In regards to the pieces, there is a really broad range of work, even within the same craftsperson. For example, Cathryn Miller started out as a weaver and now works in book and paper arts. So she has a woven handmade coat and also this chair here," said Canning, referring to a chair on display at the SCC's Affinity Gallery.

"It's really different work and you

wouldn't expect it to be the same artist, but because she's been working as an artist for 40-odd years, the style and the mediums of her work have changed so drastically."

Miller's jacket is a great piece to illustrate the passage of time. She wove the fabric in 1982, she designed the pattern in 1983 and she made the jacket last year.

"This is something that's been three decades in the making," said Canning.

The artists included in the exhibition work in a variety of materials, ranging from basket weaving, jewelry and mixed media to wood, clay, fibre and glass. Mel Bolen, Zach Dietrich, Charley Farrero, Sandra Ledingham, Wendy Parsons and Anita Rocamora are known for their work with clay; Pat Adams, Kaija Harris, June J. Jacobs and Cathryn Miller work with fibre; Lee Brady works with glass; Megan Broner creates jewelry; Michael Hosaluk and Jamie Russell work with wood; Marigold Cribb is known for basket weaving; and Paul LaPointe and Shirley Taylor work in mixed media.

In curating the show, Jacobs was looking for artists who have continued to work during the last 40 years, and whose work has evolved and matured over time, said Canning.

"Saskatchewan has a really rich history and tradition of craft, and it's really important to celebrate it and to honour it and to showcase it," she said.

Canning said art and craft are related, and "that's something we talk about all the time in our exhibitions." She said while clay, fibre, wood and glass are traditional craft mediums, "that doesn't mean that people working within those traditional mediums aren't going to be doing contemporary or conceptual work." In describing craft, the SCC sees it as "something that is made with skill and by hand that's rooted in a tradi-

tional medium but that may transcend that medium," she said.

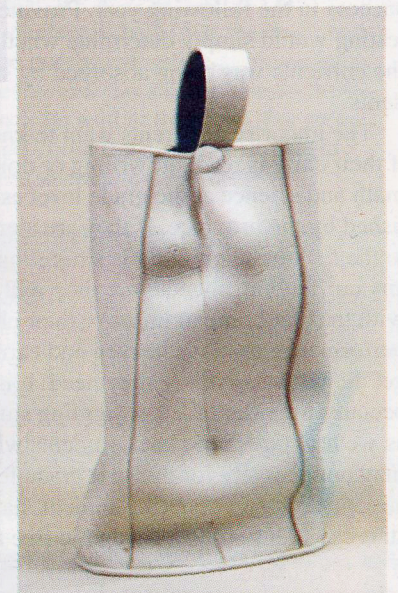
Canning said visitors to Continuum have enjoyed the exhibition and she hopes people take notice of the talent that exists in Saskatchewan.

"One thing that is also nice is that a lot of these pieces in this show are in other people's private collections, and sometimes it can be really rare to have the opportunity to view work that's in a private collection. So that can be really exciting," she said, adding many of the pieces are also for sale.

While Continuum celebrates work that has been done during the last 40 years, the future also looks bright for the SCC. Canning noted Saskatchewan has one of Canada's most active craft councils, and the membership is growing.

"I think there's a renewed interest in craft. There's a lot more people retiring and then choosing craft as kind of a second career, and there's also a lot of younger makers interested and participating in the craft culture in Saskatchewan," she said.

Continuum will be on display until March 3 at the Affinity Gallery, located at 813 Broadway Ave. The gallery is open to the public from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. daily. For more information about the Saskatchewan Craft Council and Continuum, go online to [saskcraftcouncil.org](http://saskcraftcouncil.org).



**Top: Heads and Tails by Mel Bolen**

**Middle: Life Boat by Anita Rocamora**

**Bottom: Figure Vase by Anita Rocamora**