



A journey to the origins, artists and techniques of American craft

CRAFT IN AMERICA

For Immediate Release
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**New episode of the Peabody Award-Winning PBS series
CRAFT IN AMERICA to air nationwide on PBS, May 11, 2012 at 9pm***

Los Angeles, CA - Emmy nominated and Peabody Award-winning documentary series *Craft in America*, - now in its fourth season exploring America's rich craft history - will air its 8th episode, *Threads*, on PBS stations nationwide, on May 11, 2012 at 9pm*.

Throughout history, man has sought ways to craft a domestic environment that is warm, comforting, and redolent of meaning and memories. Through interviews with nationally acclaimed artists working at the forefront of their media, artists devoting their lives and pushing boundaries of technique in the pursuit of their art, *Threads* looks at ways in which the needle arts have developed from the "functional" to the "meaningful".

Threads explores work by **Faith Ringgold**, **Consuelo Jimenez Underwood** and **Terese Agnew** - who through story-quilts and fiber collages go beyond pure technique to tell us fictions and truths that pierce our sensibilities - and **Randall Darwall**, whose luscious woven textiles affect us intellectually and emotionally through musical and visual rhythms and sensuous tactility.

The *Craft in America* series is the result of years of advocacy, research and filmmaking by Executive Producer Carol Sauvion. "Craft is once again proving its relevance as people return to the handmade," says Sauvion.

Special advance screenings will be held in venues nationwide. Ancillary projects include museum exhibitions, the Random House book *Craft in America: Celebrating Two Centuries of Artists and Objects*, hours of online videos and interactive learning materials, and a free-to-the-public Craft in America Study Center located in Los Angeles, offering artist talks, exhibitions, workshops and a library of publications on the history and techniques of craft.

For more about Craft in America:

www.craftinamerica.org www.pbs.org/craftinamerica www.facebook.com/craftinamerica
www.youtube.com/user/craftinamerica2007 www.flickr.com/photos/craftinamerica

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*Check local listings

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Internationally celebrated artist, teacher, author and founding member of the National Black Feminist Organization, **Faith Ringgold** creates painted “story quilts”, but works in many other media, such as a notable mosaic for the New York subway system at 125th Street in Harlem, where she grew up and taught for many years, bringing the proud history of African-American masters to a new generation. Descended from a family of quilters, her story is about “a veritable lifetime in a struggle to become an artist.” Her famous quilt, *Tar Beach* resides at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York.

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Randall Darwall, master colorist and weaver whose hallmark is an extraordinarily refined aesthetic, is one of contemporary craft's finest weavers, bringing an intelligence and liveliness to his work. He sees his goal as "not just making patterns, but giving people something to think about." For Darwall, dyeing and weaving is a way to set up a conversation between colors; when the cloth is worn, it becomes kinetic sculpture. His approaching 25th anniversary with life-partner and designer Brian Murphy is testament to a joyous, enduring relationship to work and living that colors his work.

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Consuelo Jimenez Underwood is most well known for her textiles and installation work. Her work represents her own history as a migrant agricultural worker, signifying her hybrid culture as well as the arbitrary lines that divide her homes in California and Mexico. "With beauty, grace and traditional form, my work expresses the quiet rage that has permeated indigenous peoples of the Americas." ... "I think of my work as woven "corridos," songs about political and physical strife." Her work incorporates weaving, sewing, painting, applique into a proud political feminist Mexican-American statement.

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Terese Agnew's work has evolved from sculpture to densely embroidered quilts by a process she calls "drawing with thread". Her themes are environmental and socio-political. Her most notable quilt to date is the *Portrait of a Textile Worker*, constructed of thousands of clothing labels stitched together, contributed by hundreds of sympathetic individuals, labor organizations, Junior League members, students, retired and unemployed workers, friends, family and acquaintances. The resulting image is about the exploitation and abuse of laborers, the by-products of globalization and the insatiable American appetite for goods. Agnew's quilts are included in permanent collections of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Renwick Gallery, and The Milwaukee Art Museum, among others.