



TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION
OF CRAFT ARTISTS

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**STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION COMMEMORATES
THREE DECADES OF CRAFT IN THE PARK
Guest Demonstration Celebrates Noted Artist**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – The Tennessee Association of Craft Artists (TACA) celebrates the 30th anniversary of the TACA Fall Craft Fair beginning Friday, September 26th and running through Sunday, September 28th in Nashville's Centennial Park. Artists will be on site and craft available for purchase from 10 am to 6 pm Friday and Saturday and from 10am to 5pm on Sunday, with free admission and parking.

The TACA Fall Craft Fair affords visitors the opportunity to engage in craft from the creation through the finished product, from the emerging artist through the most accomplished. Craft media such as woodturning, stained glass, weaving and papermaking are on display and demonstrators are available to discuss the methods and processes in use. Finished pieces of work are available for purchase, all handmade by accomplished artists from across the nation, and emerging artists from across the state participate in the TACA Chapter Booth, where those who wish to have a taste of the Fair can exhibit in a shared space. Children and parents are encouraged to visit the TACA Kid's Tent where non-profit partners from the mid-state area provide engaging and interesting craft projects. All activities are free and open to the public.

"The Fall Craft Fair is not only an opportunity to shop and find one-of-a-kind, handmade art," TACA Executive Director Ann Shaw said, "but also a meeting ground where the collector can interact with the creator and all can celebrate the work of the hand."

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Exclusive to this year's fair, TACA has added an additional component by presenting the Guest Artist Demonstration. A tremendous success at its inauguration last fall, the program featured internationally known ceramicist Sylvia Hyman. This year's guest demonstrator is noted doll maker and Tennessee resident Akira Blount. Starting out using cotton stockings, Akira has been making dolls for the last thirty years creating a style that is uniquely her own. When joined with her husband Larry's love of wood, the result is an exploration of the spirit of nature. Each piece created is a combination of both cloth and natural materials, most of which are collected personally from the farms and gardens of the family's property in East Tennessee.

Since 1986, Akira has been published more than 30 times in magazines as diverse as American Craft Magazine, Smithsonian Magazine, Fiber Arts Design Book III, and Contemporary Doll. In addition to inclusion in the permanent collection of the Tennessee State Museum, Akira's work can be found in the Louvre, Musee Des Arts Decoratif in Paris, France, The Musee De Poupees, Josselin, France and in the National Museum of American Art in Washington, D.C. Additionally, she is featured in the White House Collection of American Craft, in which Akira is the only doll maker included. She holds membership in the Southern Highlands Craft Guild, the American Craft Council, Piedmont Craftsmen, Inc and the National Institute of American Doll Artists, for whom she served as president from 1997 through 1999.

Visitors of all ages, tastes and budgets can enjoy the artistic and diverse collection of fine crafts, including objects of clay, fiber, glass, metals, wood and mixed media, in addition to jewelry, fine wearables, sculpture, photography and original prints. Almost 200 exhibitors are set to the picturesque scenery of the full-scale replica of the Parthenon, creating the perfect outdoor art gallery to highlight fine craft from across the nation.

The TACA Craft Fairs are produced by the Tennessee Association of Craft Artists (TACA), an independent, statewide non-profit organization and recipient of the Tennessee Governor's Award in the Arts. TACA receives no commission for the sale of artwork. Admission to the fair is free to the public, thanks to the support of our family of official sponsors. By maintaining high standards of excellence, the Tennessee Association of Craft Artists is appreciated for producing festivals representing the finest in American craftsmanship. We are proud to be a part of Celebrate Nashville, the #1 Craft Fair in Tennessee as designated by Harris List, and as one of the 200 Best List by the Sunshine Artist magazine.

Founded in 1965, the Tennessee Association of Craft Artists (TACA) is a statewide, non-profit organization dedicated to encouraging, developing and promoting crafts and craftspeople in Tennessee. Through the use of Craft Fairs, TACA works to expose the residents of Tennessee to the art of fine craft, while providing a forum for creative and personal expression for the artists. For more information, visit www.tennesseecrafts.org.