

# The Friends of Fiber Art International Artist File Collection

Beth Goodrich, Librarian

American Craft Council

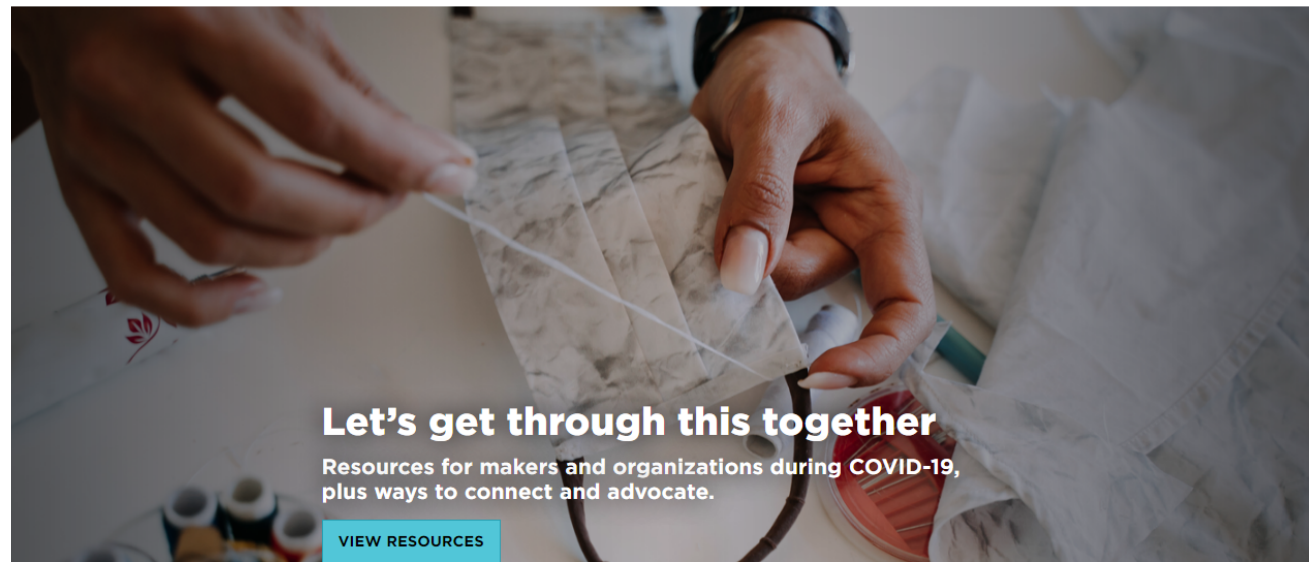


Since 1943, the ACC has championed craft and craft artists

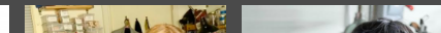


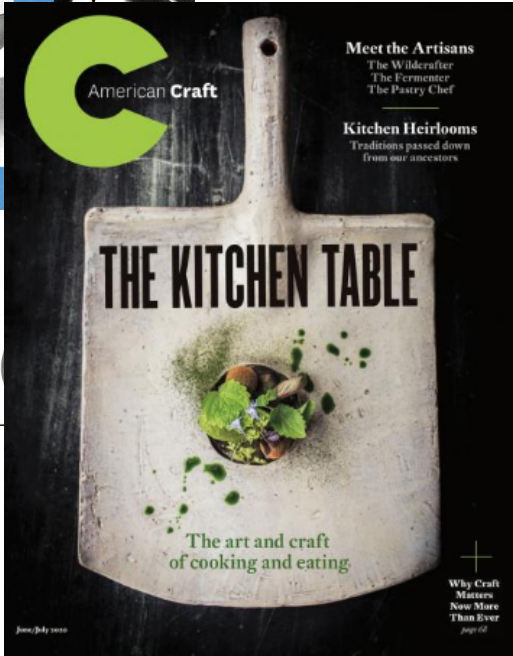
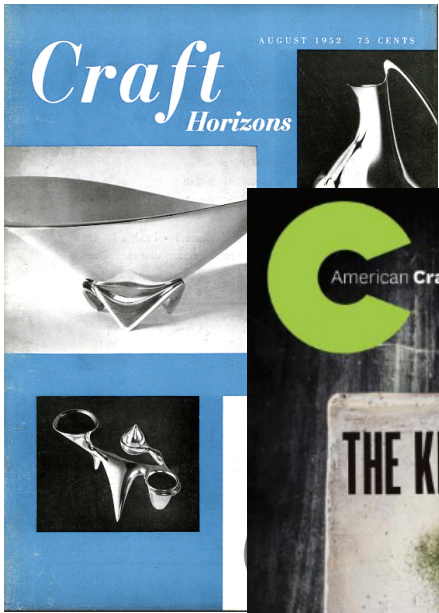
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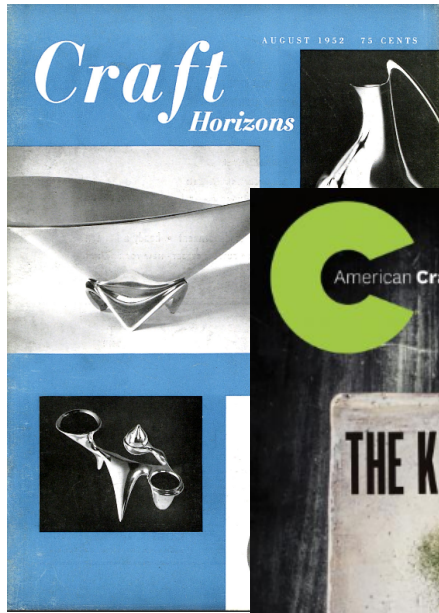
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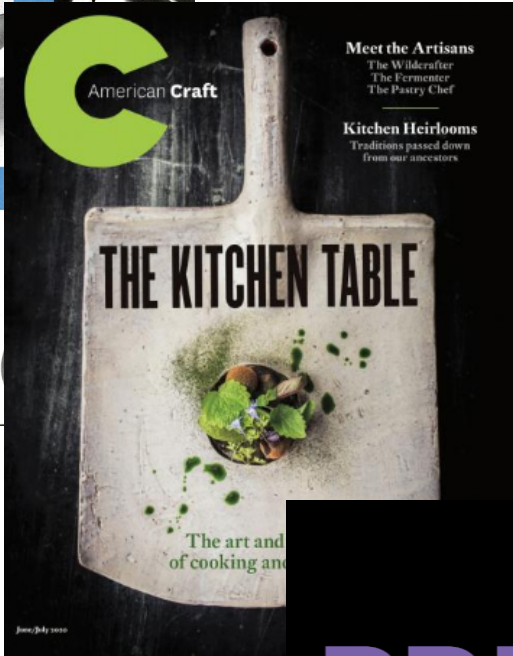
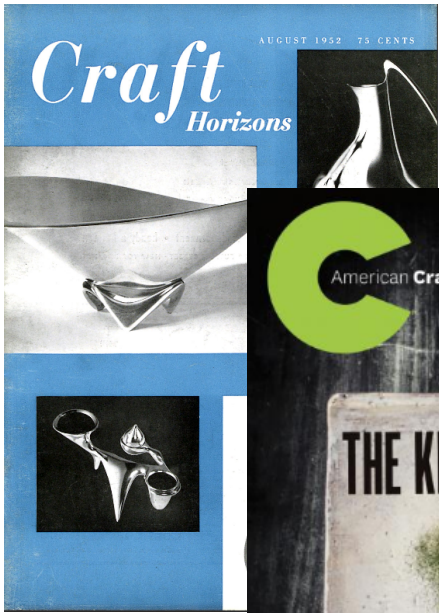


### Recently Published Stories









# PRESENT TENSE 2019

When

OCTOBER  
10-12  
2019

Presented by

AMERICAN  
CRAFT  
COUNCIL

A NATIONAL CONVERSATION ON CRAFT IN AN INCREASINGLY TENSE AND COMPLEX PRESENT.

## The ACC Library

~20,000 volumes

~120 periodicals

~archival collections

~4000 artist files




# The ACC Digital Collections

~Institutional archives

~Museum of Contemporary Crafts (MAD)

~Craft Horizons/American Craft magazine

~Other craft organizations

  
[Advanced Search](#)   

## Welcome to the ACC Library & Archives Digital Collections

An open-access online compendium containing thousands of unique images, documents, and media, the ACC Digital Collections detail the history of contemporary craft in America. From ACC newsletters and photographs to firsthand documentation of major national craft exhibitions, the digital collections offer makers, scholars, and craft appreciators a glimpse at some of the ACC Library's most invaluable resources.

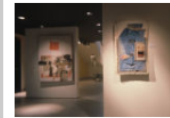
Check out our [online video tutorials](#) for assistance searching and downloading content from the ACC Library & Archives Digital Collections.

Visit the [ACC Library & Archives homepage](#) to find out more about our resources, services and collections.



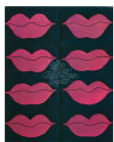
### ACC Conferences, Exhibitions and Fairs (1940s-1950s)

This collection contains archival documentation of craft conferences, exhibitions, fairs, and other events sponsored or hosted by the American Craft Council in the 1940s and 1950s. Digitization of...



### ACC Conferences, Exhibitions and Fairs (1960s)

This collection contains archival documentation of craft conferences, exhibitions, fairs, and other events sponsored or hosted by the American Craft Council in the 1960s. Digitization of materials in this...



### ACC Conferences, Exhibitions and Fairs (1970s)

This collection contains archival documentation of craft conferences, exhibitions, fairs, and other events sponsored or hosted by the American Craft Council in the 1970s. Digitization of materials in this...



### ACC Conferences, Exhibitions and Fairs (1980s-1990s)

This collection contains archival documentation of craft conferences, exhibitions, fairs, and other events sponsored or hosted by the American Craft Council in the 1980s and 1990s. Digitization of...



### ACC Newsletter Collection

Since 1941, the American Craft Council has published newsletters and devoted portions of Craft Horizons and American Craft magazines to documenting Council events, exhibitions, and activities. With the...



### Craft Horizons (1941-1979) / American Craft (1979-1990) Magazine

In 1941 the Council began printing a newsletter for members that became the primary tool for reaching a general audience who wanted to stay informed about the craft world. Within a year the unnamed...

# Friends of fiber Art International™

Box 468, Western Springs, IL 60558  
Phone 708.710.0644

Who directs,  
advises and belongs to Friends  
of  
Fiber Art International?

WHO

What is contemporary fiber art?  
What is the organization's  
mission?  
What book tells the story?

WHAT

When are  
Friends of Fiber Art  
International's  
programs?

WHEN

Where may I see contemporary  
fiber art exhibitions  
in museums and galleries?

WHERE

Why should I support Friends of  
Fiber Art International?  
What benefits will I enjoy?

WHY

How do I join,  
post my fiber art show  
in the WHERE calendar  
or apply for a grant?

HOW

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Web design and hosting by [GloDerWorks](#)

## Contemporary Fiber Art

The distinguished magazine, *Art in America*, said "Fiber art could be recognized simply as a division of visual art – not the same thing as Pointillism or Pop Art, but not something less – with it's own particular identity and strengths. – Janet Koplos, 1996

Beginning in the 1960s Magdalena Abakanowicz, Olga de Amaral, Jean Lurcat, Ed Rossbach, Lenore Tawney, Claire Zeisler and others began to extend the boundaries of acceptable material for production of fine art. Their one-of-a-kind works were usually constructed of flexible materials using textile techniques. Works called "fiber art" include (but are not limited to) sculptural baskets, quilts made for the wall and the first fiber art, tapestry.

## Our Mission

Friends of Fiber Art tells the world that fiber art is *the* collectible of the 21st century and helps you find it. We facilitate opportunities and programs for the education of potential collectors. Such as:

Present public lectures and symposia such as the annual member-artist presentations at the SOFA Expo in Chicago each November.

Provide a calendar of contemporary fiber art exhibitions in galleries, art centers and museums all over the globe and on the Internet. Click on [WHERE](#) for a list of shows.

Support a series of regional exhibitions featuring contemporary fiber art from private and public collections. The catalog for the first show from Midwest collections, *Material Difference: Soft Sculpture and Wall Works*, may be purchased from Friends. Click [HOW](#)

Award grants to support professionally-mounted exhibitions with catalogs of soft sculpture and wall works. Since founding in 1991, Friends of Fiber Art has granted more than a quarter million dollars to such shows. Annual grant deadline is July 1st for projects which commence following January 1 of the following year. Download the Guidelines and Application from [HOW](#).

## FIVE FIBER ART TECHNIQUES



Cindy Hickok  
*Platform Shoe*, 1997  
rayon and metallic thread  
machine embroidery on water-soluble  
fabric with shredded currency



Jan Hopkins  
*Tolerance*, 2008  
constructed of grapefruit and  
cantaloupe peels with waxed-linen  
thread  
Photo: Ken Rowe



## ❖ Selection of artists

- FoFA Artist Files represented approximately 1500 artists
- Referenced the ACC Artist Files for artists common to both FoFA and ACC collections
- Gave special consideration to additional artists from underrepresented communities

## ❖ Selection of materials

- Focused on unpublished materials/avoided material that would involve third party rights
- Careful about material with personal information
- 80% of selected materials consisted of images, 20% textual documents
- Combined the FoFA and ACC artist file materials for a more robust selection

# PERMISSIONS



## ❖ Outreach for permissions

- ACC artists have agreed to allow access to their files
  - Had contact information for many of the artists
  - Digital collection includes a clear rights statement
- 
- Sent letter requesting permission
  - Assured use for educational purposes only
  - 35% return of signed permission agreements, only one refusal

## ❖ Lessons learned

- Start work with vendor early
- Orientation Issue: address orientation with vendor
- Difficulty in connecting with artists for permission



Susan Iverson, *Entry – Laughing Fates*, 1984

❖ Unexpected rewards



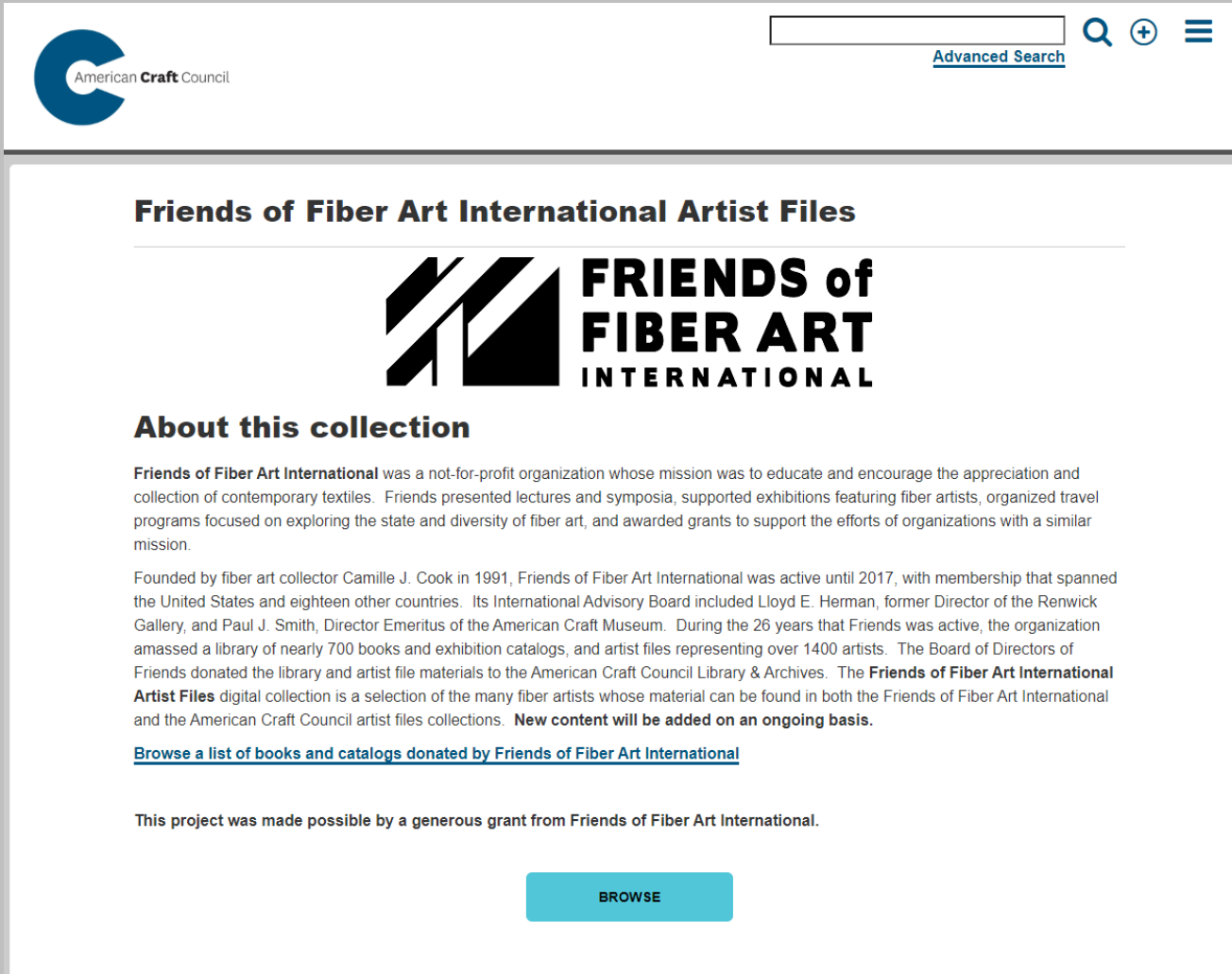
- Reconnecting with artists
- Additional materials!
- Project ready for future students and interns

# Where we're at...

~Approximately 40% complete

~3724 digital objects to date

~One intern, one practicum student, and four volunteers have contributed so far




The screenshot shows the American Craft Council website. At the top left is the American Craft Council logo. At the top right is a search bar with a magnifying glass icon, a plus sign icon, and a menu icon. Below the search bar is the text "Advanced Search". The main content area features the title "Friends of Fiber Art International Artist Files" in bold. Below the title is the logo for "FRIENDS of FIBER ART INTERNATIONAL", which consists of a stylized graphic of three vertical bars of varying heights and the text "FRIENDS of FIBER ART INTERNATIONAL" in bold. Below the logo is the section "About this collection". The text under this section describes the organization's mission and history. At the bottom of the page is a blue button labeled "BROWSE".

American Craft Council

Advanced Search

## Friends of Fiber Art International Artist Files



### About this collection

**Friends of Fiber Art International** was a not-for-profit organization whose mission was to educate and encourage the appreciation and collection of contemporary textiles. Friends presented lectures and symposia, supported exhibitions featuring fiber artists, organized travel programs focused on exploring the state and diversity of fiber art, and awarded grants to support the efforts of organizations with a similar mission.

Founded by fiber art collector Camille J. Cook in 1991, Friends of Fiber Art International was active until 2017, with membership that spanned the United States and eighteen other countries. Its International Advisory Board included Lloyd E. Herman, former Director of the Renwick Gallery, and Paul J. Smith, Director Emeritus of the American Craft Museum. During the 26 years that Friends was active, the organization amassed a library of nearly 700 books and exhibition catalogs, and artist files representing over 1400 artists. The Board of Directors of Friends donated the library and artist file materials to the American Craft Council Library & Archives. The **Friends of Fiber Art International Artist Files** digital collection is a selection of the many fiber artists whose material can be found in both the Friends of Fiber Art International and the American Craft Council artist files collections. **New content will be added on an ongoing basis.**

[Browse a list of books and catalogs donated by Friends of Fiber Art International](#)

This project was made possible by a generous grant from Friends of Fiber Art International.

BROWSE

Friends of  
Fiber Art  
International  
Artist Files  
Collection

Mary Merkel-Hess, *Blue Wave*

Sonya Clark, *Hair Series*



<https://digital.craftcouncil.org/digital/>



# Thank You!

Beth Goodrich

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[www.craftcouncil.org](http://www.craftcouncil.org)

