

---

# THE CRAFTY LIBRARIAN

---

ISSUE 8

American **Craft** Council

AUGUST 2022

---

## SPECIAL AWARDS EDITION

The **American Craft Council Awards** are taking place this year, which means the library is busy acquiring new materials related to our most recent awardees. In this issue of *The Crafty Librarian*, we are excited to share a brief history of the ACC Awards program, what it takes to honor our awardees' work through our archives, and new books about our 2022 Awards cohort.



Jim Bassler  
*Skin Mantle* (1987)



Patti Warashina  
*A Procession* (1986)



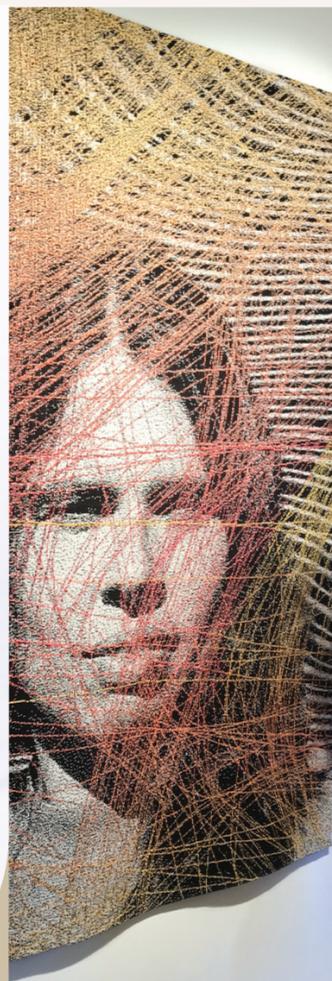
John McQueen  
*Tilting at Windmills* (2011)



Richard Marquis  
*Elephant 06-1* (2006)



Judy McKie  
*Tiger Table* (2009)



Lia Cook  
*Connectome* (2013)

College of Fellows programming is possible thanks to generous support from the Windgate Charitable Foundation.

---

### IN THIS ISSUE

**New library collections ready for research**

Page 4

**Remembering an innovative textile artist**

Page 6

**An exciting new online craft magazine**

Page 6

**Our library as a place to “Gather”**

Page 8



Some of the members of the 1975 ACC College of Fellows included Dorothy Meredith, Harvey Littleton, Florence Eastmead, Frans Wildenhain, Lenore Tawney, Ada Husted Anderson, Toshiko Takaezu, Mary Lyon, and Margaret Patch, with ACC founder Aileen Osborn Webb (center).

## HISTORY OF THE ACC AWARDS

ACC gave out its first ever Award of Merit to textile designer **Dorothy Liebes** in 1970. In 1975, seeking to develop an ongoing program to recognize those who made significant contributions to advancing the craft field, our board of trustees established the Academy of **Fellows of the American Crafts Council**. A special committee of the trustees appointed seventeen artists, educators, and administrators in the craft field into the first cohort of ACC Fellows. By 1977, the members of the College of Fellows took on the process of nominating new members. Additional awards, including the **Gold Medal for Consummate Craftsmanship** (ACC's highest honor), the **Award of Distinction**, and the **Aileen Osborn Webb Award of Philanthropy**, were inaugurated in the early 1980s. The frequency of the awards varied over the years, taking place annually for periods of time and biannually at others. Currently, ACC presents its awards program biannually.

## ADVENTURES IN AWARDS AND FELLOWS

Assistant Librarian Kirsi Ritosalmi-Kisner reflects on her work enhancing the library's collection of artist files for the 2022 cohort of ACC awardees.

---

**Kirsi Ritosalmi-Kisner** ACC Assistant Librarian

---

My first project since starting as the assistant librarian was to gather material relating to ACC's 2022 Gold Medal and Fellows nominations. The ACC Library already had **artist files** for most of the awardees with materials such as biographies, exhibition catalogs, and work images. We're always on the lookout for information updates, but we actively solicit for new material from new awardees. Each nominated artist's file was updated with material they provided and additional information such as interviews, artist profiles, and gallery and exhibition reviews I found online. ACC Librarian Beth Goodrich has also acquired books and exhibition catalogs about the new awardees (see a partial list below).



The ACC Library has a vast collection of material in its digital collections. In the Artists and Their Work collection there are 4,700 images of works by craft artists. I was excited to learn how to add images onto CONTENTdm, our digital asset management system. In addition to images themselves, each image file has metadata attached to it such as the creator's name, work's title, and description. Images and metadata are loaded onto the CONTENTdm server, and they become available in the **digital collection**.

American **Craft** Council

The biggest collection in the ACC Library's archives is ACC's organizational papers, and one of its largest portions, or series, relates to ACC's **Awards and Fellows**. The series consists of correspondence, administrative, photographic, and publicity material relating to awards granted by and received by ACC, and the series had no publicly available finding aid, which is the description of the box contents. In processing this series I rearranged and condensed portions of the existing files and added previously unprocessed documents relating to more recent nomination cycles. I removed rusted staples and paper clips, which can harm documents. There are also some non-paper and oversize materials included in the series, such as Gold Medal award prototypes and a wooden ACC Rare Craft Fellowship Award plaque. I enhanced the existing finding aid's Scope and Content, and Historical Notes. Another learning experience for me was to edit the .xml file, which is the behind-the-scenes "body" of the finding aid's online version.



Teri Greeves, *Kiowa Ladies*, 2017, Czech cut beads, heeled shoes, 9 x 3.5 x 11 inches. Photo by Stephen Lang.



Preston Singletary, *Mystic Bird*, blown and sand carved glass, 21.5 x 14 x 11 inches. Photo by Russell Johnson.



Patti Warashina, *Gossipmongers*, 2010, 25 x 84 x 84 inches. Photo by Rob Vinnedge.

Highlights of going through these materials have included learning about the versatility and overarching skill and talent of ACC Fellows and Gold Medalists. It has also been wonderful to come across awardees' responses to nomination letters, which reflect the delight and honor many artists feel upon receiving news of their nomination. In a similar way, the existing fellows' nomination letters for future members of the college demonstrate the high level of respect and admiration fellows have towards their nominees' craft. I invite you to browse ACC's digital library's **Artists and Their Works** section and dive into the images of awe-inspiring works that are presented there.



John McQueen, *Tilting at Windmills*, 2011, sticks and string, 49 x 48 x 32 inches. Photo courtesy of the artist.

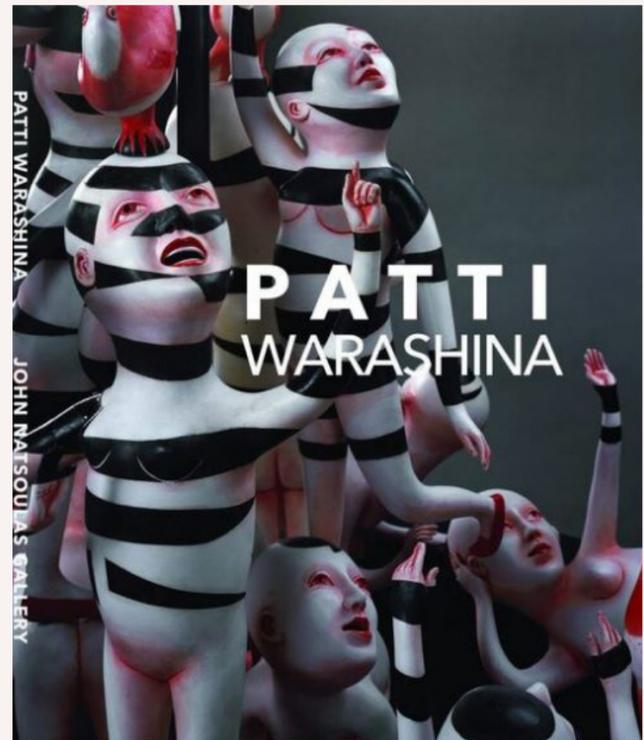
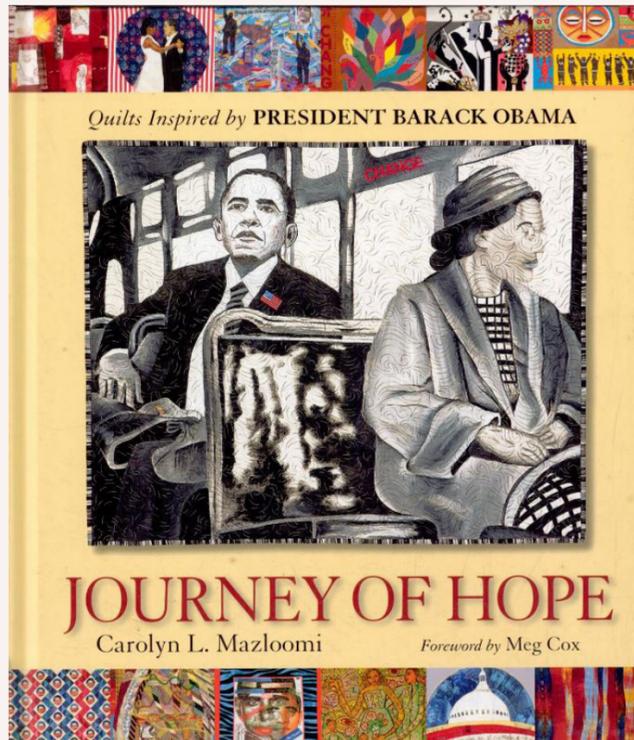


Tip Toland, *Beauty Parlor*, 2017, clay, paint, chalk pastel, 22 x 22 x 16 inches. Photo courtesy of the artist.



Kristina Madsen, *Cabinet on Stand*, 2011, Bubinga, tinted gesso, Indonesian rosewood, maple, 47 x 22 x 14 inches. Photo by David Stansbury.

## NEW BOOKS IN THE COLLECTION: THE 2022 ACC FELLOWS

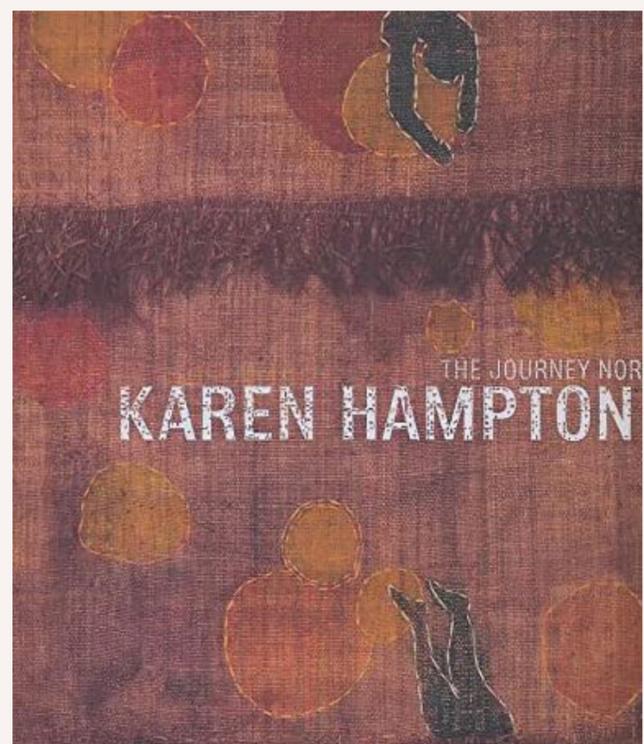
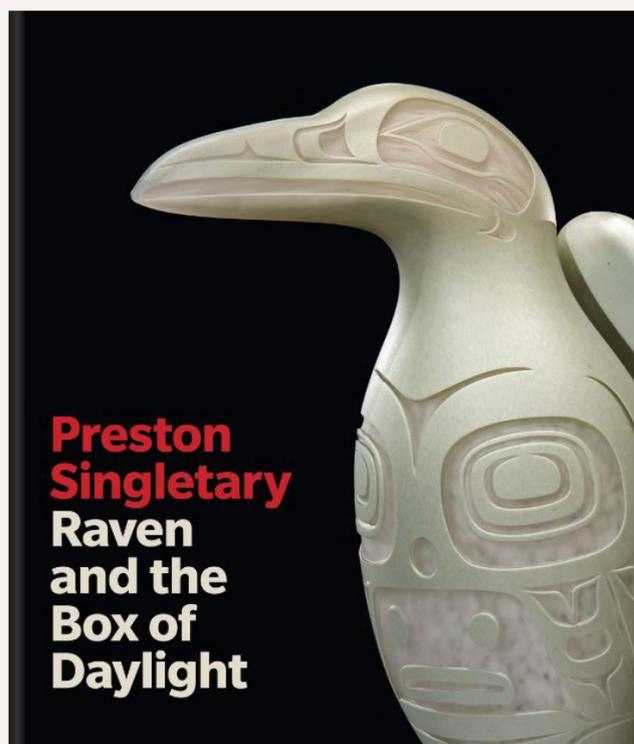


### *Journey of Hope: Quilts Inspired by President Barack Obama* by Carolyn L. Mazloomi

This 2010 publication by Dr. Carolyn Mazloomi is a compilation of 103 quilts inspired by the campaign and election of Barack Obama as the 44th president of the United States. The full-page images of the quilts capture the powerful and very personal expressions of hope and joy each maker put into their work.

### *Patti Warashina* by Tahlia Aghily

This survey of Patti Warashina's career examines the range of her playful and irreverent work, which is full of humor and socio-political commentary. Spanning over five decades, the book is arranged in sections highlighting different series of works, which often mirrored her personal life experiences.



### *Preston Singletary: Raven and the Box of Daylight, essays* by Miranda Shkik Belarde-Lewis and John Drury

The exhibition *Preston Singletary: Raven and the Box of Daylight* depicts a version of the Tlingit creation story in which Raven brings daylight to the world. The narrative of the tale is interspersed with exquisite photographs of individual works and installation images of the 2018 exhibition held at the Museum of Glass in Tacoma, Washington.

### *Karen Hampton: The Journey North*, texts by Susanna White, Stephen J. Goldberg, Gilbert Coker

Artist Karen Hampton considers herself a griot, or storyteller in the West African tradition. But, her storytelling takes shape in textile rather than oral tradition. In the 2015 exhibition *Karen Hampton: The Journey North* the artist examines her familial story, incorporating images from her parents' multicultural ancestry, as well as images of noted abolitionists, who all shaped the story of the African American experience, and ultimately the story of Hampton herself.

## NOW AVAILABLE FOR RESEARCH

The Ruth DeYoung Kohler Foundation Grant that the ACC Library received in 2021 allowed staff to process several smaller archives collections for individuals and organizations, as well as new materials for the ACC archives. Below is a list of new collections that are now available for research.



### M. Anna Fariello papers

Anna Fariello is a ceramic artist, metalsmith, curator, and researcher currently based in North Carolina. She graduated from James Madison University in 1993 with an MFA in Studio Art and has taught as an associate professor at Western Carolina University, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and Radford University. She has also been a Fulbright Scholar, a research fellow at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, and a researcher for the Smithsonian Folklife Center.

### Michael McTwigan papers - American Ceramics magazine

Michael McTwigan is a writer and journalist currently based in Connecticut. He studied anthropology at Lake Forest College and continued his education in anthropology, art history, and linguistics at Columbia University. McTwigan was the founding editor of the magazine *American Ceramics* in 1982 and served as its editor until 1993.

### Art Jewelry Forum

Art Jewelry Forum is a nonprofit organization established in 1997 to advocate for the international field of contemporary art jewelry through education, publications, events and by providing financial grants to artists and speakers.

### Susan Cummins Gallery

The Susan Cummins Gallery was founded in 1983 in Mill Valley, California. Specializing in contemporary American art jewelry, the gallery notably melded the distinct worlds of fine art and craft.

### Year of American Craft (Series 20, Subseries F)

The year 1993 was designated "The Year of American Craft" through a congressional resolution and presidential proclamation by George H. W. Bush. ACC worked with the National Steering Committee in order to organize events across the US to recognize, celebrate, and promote the broad spectrum of craft involvement in America. There were events and programs in every US state and also in Canada and Latin America.

---

We've updated the [Archives page](#) on the library website to include links to the finding aids for these and other special collections. Additional finding aids will be added as they become available.

American **Craft** Council

## REMEMBERING RITZI JACOBI (1941–2022)



We learned recently of the passing of Ritzi Jacobi, a Romanian-born textile and fiber artist who created enormous works from a variety of fiber materials such as sisal, jute, goat hair, and coconut fiber. She was part of the “new tapestry” movement that pushed tapestry into the realm of abstraction and included such artists as Magdalena Abakanowicz, Lenore Tawney, and Sheila Hicks. She and her husband Peter worked collaboratively for the nearly two decades that they were married.

Their work gained attention at the 1969 International Tapestry Biennial. After receiving a special visa to travel from Romania to participate in the Venice Biennale in 1970, they defected to Germany. The marriage ended in 1984, and Ritzi continued to work as a solo artist.

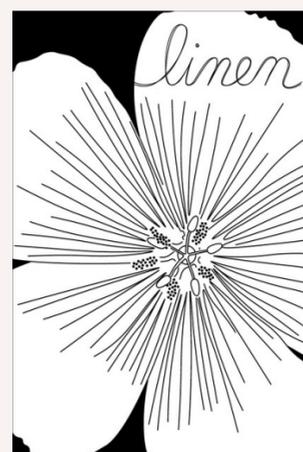
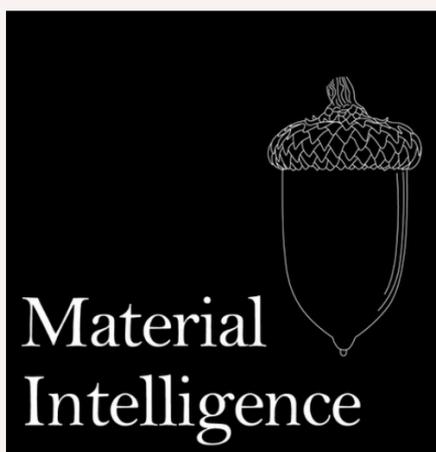
[Images of two works by the Jacobis from the 1969 Lausanne Biennial](#) can be found in our digital collections, as well as [an article in \*American Craft\*](#) about their first major solo exhibition *Ritzi and Peter Jacobi* at the Detroit Institute of Arts in 1981.

[The catalog from this exhibition](#), and [many others featuring the Jacobis](#), can be found in the ACC Library print collection. Their work is also featured in *Fiber: Sculpture 1960-Present* published by Prestel, 2014. Explore these resources to learn more about this innovative textile artist.

An [oral history interview with Ritzi Jacobi conducted by Jane Milosch](#) can be found at the Archives of American Art. Note that the interview was recorded in German.



## ONLINE RESOURCE: MATERIAL INTELLIGENCE



The Chipstone Foundation based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is producing an exciting new digital magazine focused on the study of craft and material culture, *Material Intelligence*. Edited by writer and historian Glenn Adamson with contributions from writer and maker Carolyn Herrera-Perez, each issue examines the nature of a common material, making connections between art and science and the ways material shapes and is shaped by human culture. Contributing authors include educators, journalists, poets, designers, and all manner of artists with an affinity for material. The magazine is beautifully illustrated, is freely available, and can be downloaded.

## THANK YOU TO THE FRIENDS OF THE ACC LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

This list recognizes those who donated \$60 or more to the Friends of the ACC Library & Archives through August 3, 2022.

\*Asterisk indicates new Library Friend

### \$5,000+

Jean McLaughlin and Tom Spleth

### \$1,000-\$4,999

Judith and John Alexander  
Michele and Martin Cohen  
Susan Daughtridge  
Leilani Lattin Duke  
Barbara Laughlin  
Michael McKay and Catherine Lankford  
The Ravenal Foundation  
Sarah Schultz and Jeffrey Sugerman  
Judith Weisman  
Thom and Barb Williams  
Patricia A. Young

### \$500-\$999

William and Francine Baker  
Susan Bradley  
John Campbell  
Denise and Gary David  
Chuck and Andrea Duddingston  
Alex Kurtz  
Jill Moormeier  
Lynn Pollard  
Arturo Alonzo Sandoval

### \$100-\$499

Anne Abendroth  
Albert Accettoia  
Suzanne Ammerman  
Arnie and Judy of the Fishman Family  
Foundation  
Lynn Bailets and Katherine Crosson  
Joan and Robert Benedetti  
Lorraine Bressler  
Gail M. Brown  
Jan Buckman  
Tom and Susan Bulleit  
Anne Burgeson  
David Burling  
Dennis and Antoinette Ciesielski

Judy Connor Jones  
Helen Cooluris  
Kathleen Curran  
Thom Dahlgren\*  
Ed Danifls and Marcia Kane  
Fran Davis  
Craig Dubois  
Sarah H. Dunning  
Nancy Goodman  
Beth and John Goodrich  
Luanne Grabski  
Katherine Gray  
Anne Harris  
Michele Harris  
Judy Hawkinson and Patrick Plonski  
Nancy Hays  
Jack Hillman  
Mary L. Hu  
Patricia Jones  
Jean Ellen Jones  
Roger Knudson and Cheryl Burns  
Richard Kolb\*  
Cindy Kotila  
Linda Lasater  
Cynthia Launer  
Jerry Levine  
Marjorie Levy  
Rachelle Lim  
Maggie and Charles Maggio  
Jain Malkin  
Barbara Marder-Gately and Charles  
Gately  
Kelly Marshall  
Sam and Patty McCullough  
Sidney Mehlschmidt  
Don Miller and Susan Thompson  
Christine Montet  
Deloris Moring  
Mira Nakashima-Yarnal

Michael Nation and Janet Sauers  
Richard North and Patrick Doust  
Patty Ploetz  
Michelle Portman  
Sarah Pritchard  
David and Becky Ramsey  
Jennie Rodriguez  
Lysa and Gregory Rohan  
Peter Rothe and Gail Amundson  
Vonnie Sanford  
Paul Savidge  
Ann Scheid  
Dr. Michael and Brenda Silverman  
Rick Simons  
Mathew and Elizabeth Smith  
Kate Stolpman  
Carolyn Strack  
Marvin and Davira Taragin  
Johanna Thompson  
Hellena Tidwell  
Beth Tortenson  
Maureen and Richard Turman  
DeLana Valentine  
Arlene Vernon  
Patti Warashina  
Barbara and Samuel Wells  
Marta Williams  
Oliver Williams and Mary Ann Holloway  
David and Dianne Worley  
Donald Yearsley and Lawrence Valerio

### \$60-99

Meg Black  
Andy and Ginny Lewis  
Kathleen Weaver



Give your support. Join the  
Friends of the ACC Library &  
Archives today.

[Learn More](#)



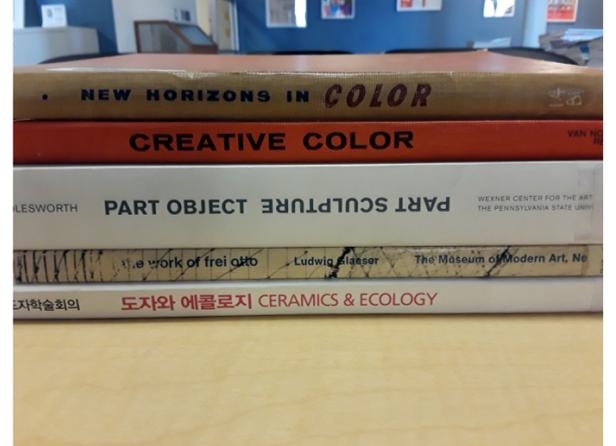
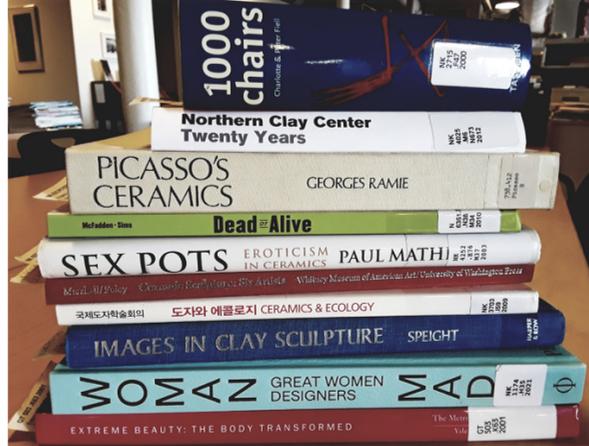
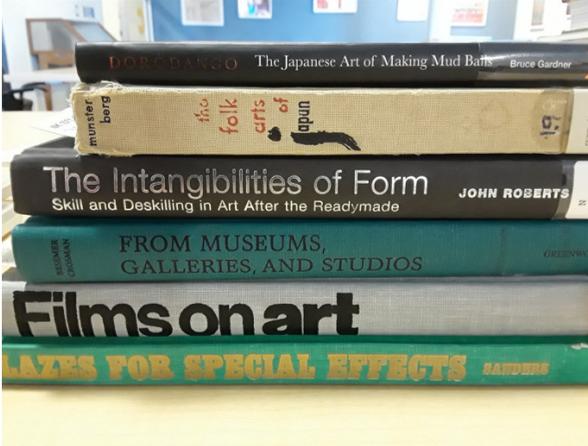
### Special Thanks to the Foundations Supporting Our Library

This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services grant number ARPML-250536OMLS-22. The ACC Library & Archives' internships efforts are made possible in part by the RDK Foundation.

American **Craft** Council

## GATHERING IN THE LIBRARY

We're looking forward to the Fall 2022 issue of *American Craft*, which is centered on the theme of "Gather." While we have the ability to serve patrons across the nation and the globe, we do love to see folks gather in the library space!



This past winter, a ceramics class from the University of Minnesota visited to explore the many print resources in our collection and learn how to incorporate scholarly research into an artistic practice.



We are grateful to the St. Catherine University student chapter of the Society of American Archivists, who gathered in February for a service project processing materials in the library.



ACC Fellows Mary Lee Hu and James Wallace stopped in at the library on a leg of their cross-country road trip in June. They have been strong supporters of the library, both as members of the Library Friends and as material donors to the library collection. We were so glad to welcome them to our space!