



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2017 International Master Artisan Gallery at ICFF  
**Javits Center Booth #3260**

**New York, NY- May 16th 2017**

As ICFF hosts North America's premier showcase for contemporary design, the fair has asked a unique team of talented craft and design experts to curate a master artisan gallery. Using the fair as a vehicle to showcase artisan innovation in luxury design, the gallery illustrates how indigenous and artisanal partnerships have a strong place within the design community—particularly among the designers, makers and editors attending ICFF.

Artisan-made textile designer and advocate Susan Easton (FROM THE ROAD), design expert Chardonnay Pickard, and world-renowned designer Tucker Robbins (Tucker Robbins), have come together to create an eclectic array of incredible textiles, accessories and furniture. The group has compiled a collection of work that they believe demonstrates the transcendent truths of indigenous and artisanal craft practices.

At a time when mechanization and computer-generated design has become undeniably en vogue and matter of fact, the ICFF International Master Artisan Gallery is meant to propose an alternative and collaborative method of making that inspires and promotes associations and alliances throughout the globe. The international craftspeople and artisans who continue their time-honored and enduring artisanal making methods are as relevant as ever. This display is meant to bring greater awareness to their work and provide a platform where the forging of new partnerships might be available.

The pieces that have been carefully selected and curated present a stunning array of what is possible from around the world, including: Mexico, Peru, Japan, Italy, Afghanistan, India, Nepal, Turkey, Haiti, Indonesia, Madagascar, and Cameroon. Modalities on display will include a variety of techniques, such as carved bone, textiles manipulation (embroidery, weaving, dyeing), glasswork, woodworking and more. Each artisan group will have a representative on-hand in order to share information about the items on display and to discuss customization and opportunities for collaboration.

**International Master Artisans Participating:**

**Archive New York**

Archive New York's philosophy is to honor the integrity of Mayan artisanal craft techniques while committing to Fair Trade principles. Based in Brooklyn, NY and founded by Amira Marion, Archive New York interprets Guatemalan traditional motifs and weaving methods into handwoven home textiles.

**Cosulich Interiors & Antiques**

Franco and Fabienne Cosulich are Italian antiques dealers with 35 years of experience who promote creativity and design in collaboration with the finest Italian artisans. These artisans preserve the longstanding tradition of Italian craftsmanship while Cosulich provides unique exposure for these enduring art-forms within New York. Cosulich has focused specifically on showcasing contemporary and made-to-order Italian hand-made furniture and glass artworks from Murano.

**FROM THE ROAD**

FROM THE ROAD is a New York-based brand that travels the globe collaborating with master artisans working to preserve heritage techniques. Founder, Susan Easton, partners with weavers in Nepal using extraordinary fibers and traditional yarn preparation to create limited-edition pieces expertly handwoven on a foot pedal loom. FROM THE ROAD is honored to support these artisans and has partnered with the United Nations' ITC Ethical Fashion Initiative to further reinvigorate this region's hand-weaving traditions.

**Porfirio Gutierrez y Familia, Oaxaca, Mexico**

Porfirio Gutiérrez and his family are masters of traditional Zapotec weaving. Based in Teotitlán del Valle Oaxaca, Mexico, they have descended from centuries of weavers dating back to pre-Columbian times. Porfirio has chosen to preserve his culture's use of naturally dyed wool, jute fibers, and handwoven techniques to re-interpret ancient Zapotec patterns and iconography. Among other awards, Gutierrez was one of four artists chosen to participate in the Artist Leadership Program sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American.

**Kettlewell Collection**

Allison Kettlewell, a textile designer with 20+ years experience creating high-end home textiles, was born and raised in Oxford, Ohio. Allison's appreciation of nature, artisanal crafts and antique textiles informs her personal aesthetic. The inaugural Kettlewell Collection blends traditional weaving and embroidery techniques with unique designs. All textiles are hand-crafted by master artisans in India, a partnership rooted in decades of professional collaboration and mutual appreciation of the fine art of weaving and embroidery at the highest level.

## **KOFU**

KOFU was founded as an in-house brand of Curious Corners, an indigo dye house and showroom of Japanese textiles in New York. KOFU scouts vintage fabric in Japan and repurposes it as decoration for the modern home. The brand works with contemporary artisans who preserve regional Japanese textile traditions. KOFU's current collection works with the niche weaving mills of bingo kasuri (Japanese ikat) in Hiroshima, sashiko embroidery masters in Gifu prefecture, a shibori dye house in Saitama, Japan, as well as a traditional handmade ceramic button maker.

## **Docey Lewis**

With a fascination for natural materials and a fluency with textile structures and centuries old techniques, Docey Lewis uses her skills as a designer, entrepreneur, and educator to collaborate with global artisans on products that provide needed livelihoods. Her co-creation with nature, ancestral knowledge, artisans and the marketplace never ceases to bring both joy and a deep respect for our interconnectivity. Her work with conservation organization CPALI for the past three years has resulted in a collaboration with artisans in Madagascar to produce unique wild silk cocoon artwork that is represented in New York by the Tucker Robbins showroom.

## **Neha Puri Dhir**

Neha Puri Dhir is a textiles artist based out of Vadodara, Gujarat. She focuses on stitch resist dyeing.

Silk fabric, which is specifically hand-woven by the finest Indian weavers across various craft clusters in the country, acts as the canvas for her explorations. Her work incorporates the sacred traditional techniques of shibori from Japan, bandhej from India, and adire' from Nigeria.

Dhir's design philosophy has been deeply influenced by the Japanese aesthetic wabi-sabi. Centered on the acceptance of transience and imperfection, each piece is one-of-a-kind. Her work is represented in New York by the Tucker Robbins showroom.

## **Urban Zen Naturally Haiti Collection**

Urban Zen's Naturally Haiti Collection was created after Donna Karan's first visit to Haiti with the Clinton Foundation following the 2011 earthquake. While everyone focused on the devastation, Donna looked at the country through the eyes of a designer, recognizing the immense creativity, untapped potential, and unique culture. The collection is an Artisan made home décor and accessory line using materials like paper maché, horn, bone, wood, stone, pottery, and leather.

## **Oliver Yaphe**

OLIVER YAPHE, created by Katherine Yaphe, creates handmade rugs in Turkey and Nepal. Their pieces are hand-woven and many included recycled kilim materials. The brand celebrates contemporary design and traditional technique. This play of old and new makes each Oliver Yaphe item special. Every Oliver Yaphe rug has a unique story and journey. No two pieces are exactly alike.

## **Zarif Design**

Born in Kabul, Afghanistan, Zolaykha Sherzad founded Zarif Design in 2005. The Kabul-based atelier, works with Afghan artisans to revive and maintain traditional textile techniques that are at risk of being lost due to ongoing conflict. Using her background in architecture and design, Zolaykha intends to return a sense of dignity to the Afghan people, empowering them as they reconstruct their society. An artist, as well as a designer, Zolaykha has represented Afghanistan at some of the art world's most prestigious art venues, including the Biennale of Venice in 2009, dOCUMENTA 13 in 2012 in Kassel, Germany, and most recently in 2015 the Biennale of Havana, Cuba.

## **About the Curators:**

### **Susan Easton**

An avid world traveler and entrepreneur, Susan founded FROM THE ROAD in 2011 as a way to help preserve the hand arts in its many forms. The business was born out her love for off-the-grid travel, a passion for artisanal techniques, and a desire to make beautiful objects with soul. She travels the globe creating limited-edition pieces for home and self and tells the stories behind them. Prior to FROM THE ROAD, she had many years of experience as a Creative Director for a number of prestigious studios in Los Angeles and New York, taught at Parsons School of Design, and opened a studio focused on branding and design for boutique luxury hotels and global retail.

### **Chardonay Pickard**

A graduate of Rhode Island School of Design, Chardonay Pickard has been passionate about art and design her entire life. Trained as a painter and textiles artist, she became fascinated with design media and marketing after moving to New York in 2007. While working in-house with Thom Filicia, Clodagh Design and Bernardaud Chardonay had great success managing communications and promotions of product licensing and partnerships. Following her interest in this area she's become an invaluable consultant to designers and manufacturers. She most enjoys creating original programming and fostering relationships between artisans, designers, architects, manufacturers and retailers. Cultivating these collaborations from introduction to final product has truly been the most rewarding part of her career and what motivates her as a professional and as an artist at heart.

### **Tucker Robbins**

For the past 30 years, Tucker Robbins' passion has been bringing the spirit and craft from traditional artisans to contemporary life. By combining ancient techniques and iconic forms, he creates furniture that is both modern and timeless. He has created thriving artisan workshops in Guatemala, Philippines, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Cameroon, working with sustainably harvested or reclaimed materials. Through his support of indigenous cultures and traditional handcraft he has formed partnerships with tribal chiefs, Arabian sheikhs, and village artisans around the world. The result is a collection of furniture with a spirit and life of its own.

## **The International Master Artisan Gallery will be located at Booth #: 3260 at ICFF**

For more information, hi-resolution images or to make an appointment please contact:

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