

Exhibition Statement: Crafting Conversations A call and response to our changing climate

In partnership with Contemporary Craft, Creatives for Climate presents *Crafting Conversations: A call and response to our changing climate*. Curators Katy DeMent and Ann Rosenthal take an expansive view of climate change, revealing that it is an opportunity to be and act in relationship with one another and with nature. In grouping works by materials and methods, several organizing themes emerged: fibers and natural dyes; slow fashion; recycled and found metals; repurposed and handmade paper; and ecoliteracy projects that connect children, families, and communities to nature. Not all of these materials and processes “leave no trace,” but it is the intention of the exhibiting artists to move toward sustainable practices, as our culture and society must also move.

Climate change challenges us to transform how we live with one another and the planet. Environmental activist and author Joanna Macy calls this transition “The Great Turning.” Art and artists can help us reflect upon and rethink who we are and how we want to be in this world. Art can connect people to each other and to nature. It can help us see the bigger picture, bringing joy and playfulness into our lives, and giving us the time and space to recharge and see the world anew.

We hope that *Crafting Conversations* will prompt you to take a “long view” and consider how each of us can shift our thinking, actions, and culture toward more sustainable, life-affirming relationships between human and non-human nature.

Creatives for Climate (C4C) is a Pittsburgh-based collaborative of artists, designers, architects, climate communicators, climate scientists, and climate educators. C4C organizes programs in which people from all walks of life can learn about climate change, generate ideas, and gain hands-on experiences about climate actions and solutions.

This exhibition is made possible by The Heinz Endowments and is hosted by Contemporary Craft, a non-profit art organization that presents contemporary art in craft materials by international and national artists through innovative exhibitions, artist-led workshops, and a unique retail store.