



Yohance Joseph Lacour, *Redemption*, 2024, crocodile embossed leather, flat black leather and rubber. courtesy of the artist.



Joshua DeWall, *Invisible Man* (detail), 2022, glass, courtesy of the artist.



Betsy Youngquist and R. Scott Long, *Rabbit Whole* (detail), 2017, mixed media, courtesy of the artists.

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Images available upon request*

### EXHIBITION SHOWCASES 21 ARTISTS WHO PUSH THE BOUNDARIES OF TRADITIONAL CRAFT

A dramatic new exhibition in Dubuque includes sneakers designed by a Pulitzer Prize-winning podcaster from Chicago, shoes made of handmade paper—and human hair, artists whose works are in the collection of the Smithsonian, ancient Indigenous and European traditions, and a seven-foot rabbit.

[The Craft Invitational](#) at the Dubuque Museum of Art (DuMA) showcases 21 craft artists from Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Minnesota. DuMA's fourth Craft Invitational opens to the public with a daylong celebration on Saturday, June 29, 2024 and continues through October 13<sup>th</sup>.

"These artists are stirring it up," says DuMA curatorial director Stacy Peterson. "Each work has a serious presence that showcases the strong craft traditions of the Midwest. We are celebrating makers who respect that lineage and push beyond traditional forms and materials." Some of the works showcased are intended for practical use. Some are on view for aesthetic joy, and many combine useful elements and artful detail.

Standing in front of Sylvie Rosenthal's nearly six-foot sculpture [Journey to an Empty City](#), Peterson shared that Rosenthal's craftsmanship reveals her background as a furniture maker. She points to seamless joinery as an example of the way the Rosenthal and the selected artists use craft traditions to create innovative contemporary work. Three leather sneakers are by [Yohance Joseph Lacour](#) a skilled leatherworker who recently won the Pulitzer Prize for his podcast *You Didn't See Nothin*. Lacour initially learned his skills while serving time in a federal prison. Lacour describes his work as "the intersection of luxury, fine art, and fortitude." Now his work can be found in the collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. Standing in the midst of Rita Grendze's ten-foot-tall yarn sculpture, Peterson shared that Grendze "takes the tradition of comfort blankets literally to new heights." Visitors are encouraged to gently touch the work, *Collective Comfort*.

A five-member curatorial team of artists featured in the 2022 Craft Invitational spent a year selecting the artists. The team includes Jocelyn Châteauevert of Mt Vernon, IA; Paul Eshelman of Elizabeth, IL; Joseph Ivacic of Chicago, IL; Tom Loeser of Madison, WI; and Alicia Velasquez of Iowa City, IA.

Across these disciplines, DuMA's Invitational brings forward the future of craft. Respectful yet innovative, at turns serious and whimsical, the 21 featured artists inflect centuries of practice with curiosity, experimentation, and decidedly contemporary sensibilities.

### **Opening Celebration June 29 / 10 AM – 8 PM**

Meet the artists and try your hand at crafting the future with a special family day and artist party.

### **Family Art Making**

10 AM – 12 PM

Free with Museum admission

Inspired by the artists of the Craft Invitational, personalize your own kicks and pumps, try your hand at painting with clay, and add your own voice to the collective expression of our community quilt.

### **Artist Panel Conversation**

4 PM

Free with Museum admission

A diverse panel of artists discuss their unique approaches to preserving tradition and pushing boundaries, moderated by juror and glass artist Joe Ivacic of Chicago.

### **Summer Artists Party**

5 PM – 8 PM

Tickets required at [dbqart.org](http://dbqart.org)

Toast 21 artists from our region who are crafting the future—including this year's Collection Prize winner. Tunes will be spun by DJ Echoras and a selection of summer fare Food Trucks.

## **THE ARTISTS**

[Hannah O'Hare Bennett](#) is a fiber artist and educator from **Madison, WI** whose textile hangings include yarn and thread, handmade paper, paint, fabric, and plant material.

[Derek Brabender](#) is a woodworker from **Stoughton, WI** passionate about the tradition of pole lathe turning, which dates back to at least the 13th century. His wooden teapot was turned and hand-carved from a single piece of black cherry wood.

[Sandra Byers](#) is a ceramic artist from **Rock Springs, WI** known for her small organic translucent porcelain. Her work has been seen at the Smithsonian, the Philadelphia Museum, John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Racine Art Museum and the American Craft Exposition.

[Liesl Chatman](#) is a spoon carver, *kolroser* (a traditional method of decorating wood with fine lines), and teacher from **Minneapolis**. She is a 2024 American Scandinavian Foundation Fellow

[Jarrod Dahl](#) is a woodworker from **Ashland, WI** who carves *näverburkar*, a traditional Scandinavian birch bark cannister for storing dry goods.

[Joshua DeWall](#), a glass artist from Galena who now lives in **Chicago**.

[Pearl Dick](#), a glass artist and community builder from **Chicago**, is the co-founder of Project FIRE, a program designed to promote healing through glassblowing for young people who have been injured by gun violence.

[Narciso Meneses Elizalde](#) from **Cedar Rapids, IA** makes swirling colorful sculptures inspired by traditional Indigenous forms found in Mesoamerica and the American southwest.

[Robert J. Farrell](#) of **Fort Atkinson, WI**. His silver and glass enamel sculptures are inspired by the architecture found in 19th-century agricultural and industrial construction.

[Emerald YellowRobe Frommelt](#) makes wearable art and is a member of Chippewa Cree Tribe of Rocky Boy residing in **Dubuque**.

[Rita Grendze](#) is a fiber artist, sculptor, theater artist, and teacher in **Chicago**.

[Yohance Joseph Lacour](#) from **Chicago** recently won the Pulitzer Prize. He describes himself as an artist and sneakerhead working at the intersection of luxury, fine art, and fortitude. His work is in the collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture and appeared at Art Basel in 2022.

[Carmen Lozar](#) is a glass artist from **Normal, IL** whose work can be found in the collections of Museum of Art and Design in NY, The Museum of Glass, WA, and the Bergstrom Mahler Museum in WI.

[Erica Spitzer Rasmussen](#) from **St. Paul** creates handmade paper garments and hand-bound books. Her work can be found in museum collections including the Minneapolis Institute of Art, the Library of Congress, and the Biblioteca Nazionale Braidense in Milan.

[Catherine Reinhart](#) is an interdisciplinary artist who works in fiber. Originally from **Ames, IA**, her work has won awards across the globe.

[Amelia Rosenberg](#), a ceramicist from **Iowa City** whose work has been shown across the U.S., Germany, and Austria. She recently completed her MFA from the University of Iowa.

[Sylvie Rosenthal](#) is a sculptor, woodworker, teacher, and designer from **Madison** whose work has been shown nationally at museums like The Fuller Craft Museum, The Mint Museum, and the Museum of Art and Design.

[Clayton Salley](#) from **Iowa City** is a metalsmith, contemporary art jeweler, U. S. Fulbright Scholar and recent MFA graduate from the University of Iowa whose 3D printed work bridges ancient and modern metalsmithing crafts.

[Matthew Urban](#) is a glass artist from **Normal, IL** who says his goblets "allow me to step back in time and imagine how this style of work was made hundreds of years ago when this type of glassware was in fashion." His work has been seen across the country. And, for the last 20 years, he has owned and operated Furnace Urbini Glass Works.

[Betsy Youngquist and R. Scott Long](#) create giant beaded sculptures. For the Craft Invitational, these **Rockford, IL**-based artists installed a 7-foot-tall rabbit in the galleries called *Rabbit Whole*.

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### **About the Dubuque Museum of Art**

The Dubuque Museum of Art (DuMA), founded in 1874 and accredited by the American Alliance of Museums in 2004, is Iowa's oldest cultural institution. Named a national affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution in 2016, DuMA's mission is to create engaging art experiences that excite, inspire, and connect our community. The Museum is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm and Sunday from 1 pm to 4 pm. More information can be found at [dbqart.org](http://dbqart.org).

Free for members, youth 18 and under, active military members, veterans, and their families with a military or veteran ID or to those receiving food assistance (SNAP benefits) who present their EBT card. Adults are \$8, seniors \$7, and college students \$5. Admission is free for all on Thursdays.

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