

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Announcing the Recipients of the 2016 American Craft Council Awards

*Biennial awards honor exceptional contributions to the arts, philanthropy, and scholarship*



**Gerhardt Knodel** (American, b. 1940), *Gathering Four Corners of the Sky*, 2011, digital photo prints, acrylic, wood, steel balls, 60 x 54 x 1.75 in; Photo: PD Rearick

**Minneapolis, MN – February, 8 2016** – The American Craft Council is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2016 American Craft Council Awards, including the induction of seven individuals into its College of Fellows: Nick Cave, Michael Cooper, Françoise Grossen, Chris Gustin, Myra Mimplitsch-Gray, Hank Murta Adams, and Edward S. Cooke, Jr. (Honorary Fellow); the selection of Sara S. Morgan for the Aileen Osborn Webb Award for Philanthropy; the selection of Craft Emergency Relief Fund (CERF+) for the Award of Distinction; and the presentation of the 2016 Gold Medal for Consummate Craftsmanship to Gerhardt Knodel (COF 1993).

Presented biennially, the ACC Awards honor outstanding artistic and scholarly achievement, leadership, and service in the field of craft.

The Council has bestowed the title of Fellow to artists and other individuals in the field (such as scholars, curators, and critics) since 1975. Candidates for this prestigious honor are nominated and elected by their peers. To be eligible, individuals must demonstrate extraordinary ability and must have worked for 25 years or more in the discipline or career in which they are recognized.

The Aileen Osborn Webb Award for Philanthropy honors exceptional contributions to and support of the field of craft, while the Award of Distinction recognizes an individual, organization, or institution that has made significant contributions to the field over a minimum of 25 years.

The Gold Medal for Consummate Craftsmanship is the Council's highest honor. Awarded only to a previously elected Fellow, the Gold Medal recognizes outstanding artistry, along with the humanistic and philosophical values exemplified over the span of a career.

The 2016 ACC Awards gala will take place on October 14 in Omaha, Nebraska. The celebration will happen at KANEKO, in conjunction with "Present Tense," the ACC's 12th national conference. The 2016 recipients will also be featured in the October/November issue of *American Craft* magazine and in videos on [craftcouncil.org](http://craftcouncil.org).

## **2016 AMERICAN CRAFT COUNCIL AWARDS RECIPIENTS**

### **GOLD MEDAL FOR CONSUMMATE CRAFTSMANSHIP**

Gerhardt Knodel (Bloomfield Hills, MI)

### **FELLOWS**

Nick Cave (Chicago, IL)

Michael Cooper (Sebastopol, CA)

Françoise Grossen (New York, NY)

Chris Gustin (South Dartmouth, MA)

Myra Mimlitsch-Gray (Stone Ridge, NY)

Hank Murta Adams (Millville, NJ)

Edward S. Cooke, Jr. (New Haven, CT), Honorary Fellow

### **AILEEN OSBORN WEBB AWARD FOR PHILANTHROPY**

Sara S. Morgan (Houston, TX)

### **AWARD OF DISTINCTION**

Craft Emergency Relief Fund (CERF+) (Montpelier, VT)

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Founded in 1943, the American Craft Council is the leading arts nonprofit cultivating a culture of making. Our founder, Aileen Osborn Webb, recognized the profound impact craft has on individuals and communities, and established a nonprofit to preserve, cultivate, and celebrate this communal heritage.

We support professional makers through our unique nonprofit shows. We provide educational resources, including a one-of-a-kind research library, conferences, public lectures, and student programs. Our national awards spotlight emerging artists and honor masters. And we promote the handmade through our resource-rich website and award-winning magazine, *American Craft*.

For more information about the Council, please visit [craftcouncil.org](http://craftcouncil.org).

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