

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**American Craft Council Announces Recipient of 2015 American Craft Council Rare Craft Fellowship Award in Association with The Balvenie**



Finalists, winner, and jurors of the 2015 American Craft Council Rare Craft Fellowship Award in association with The Balvenie (left to right): David Stewart, Garth Johnson, Mark Hewitt, Elizabeth Brim, Mary Jackson, Anthony Bourdain, Bob Kramer, James Fox, and Perry Price. Photo: Joe Gallo, courtesy of Magrino

Minneapolis, MN - March 2015 - The American Craft Council is pleased to announce the finalists and the recipient of the 2015 American Craft Council Rare Craft Fellowship Award in association with The Balvenie.

In a presentation hosted by The Balvenie in New York City, the 2015 American Craft Council Rare Craft Fellowship Award was presented to bladesmith Bob Kramer of Olympia, Washington. Finalists for the award were blacksmith Elizabeth Brim (Penland, North Carolina), potter Mark Hewitt (Pittsboro, North Carolina), and basketweaver Mary Jackson (Charleston, South Carolina).

Jurors for the award were chef, author, and raconteur Anthony Bourdain as lead juror, The Balvenie's malt master David Stewart, ACC's director of education Perry A. Price, Arizona State University Art Museum curator of ceramics Garth Johnson, and digital librarian and writer of 10engines.com, James Fox.

The American Craft Council Rare Craft Fellowship Award in association with The Balvenie is presented in recognition and support of contributions to the maintenance and revival of traditional or rare crafts in America. Fellow Bob Kramer will receive an exclusive trip to Scotland and a \$10,000 endowment to go toward continuing his craft. The two-week long trip to Scotland will provide Kramer with an opportunity to spend time at The Balvenie's historic distillery, connecting with local craftsman of his choosing along with the opportunity to learn more about the traditional crafts of whisky making. Kramer will also receive the opportunity to work with malt master David Stewart. The three finalists each received a \$5,000 endowment and a trip to New York City to showcase their work at the award luncheon.

Since 1970, the American Craft Council has given awards for significant contributions to the field of craft. The biennial American Craft Council Awards include the prestigious College of Fellows, presented to artists and individuals (nominated and elected by their peers) who have demonstrated extraordinary artistic ability; the Aileen Osborn Webb Award for Philanthropy in recognition of support of the field; the Award of Distinction in recognition of an organization, institution, or individual who has made significant contributions to the field for 25 years or more; and the Gold Medal for Consummate Craftsmanship, the highest recognition given by the Council, honoring the humanistic and philosophical values exemplified in the career of a previously elected Fellow. The ACC is also proud to biennially present the American Craft Council Emerging Voices Award in recognition and support of the next generation of makers and thinkers in the field of contemporary craft by recognizing one Emerging Artist, four shortlisted artists, and one Emerging Scholar. This award is made possible by the generous support of the John & Robyn Horn Foundation and Mohawk Fine Papers.

#### **2015 AMERICAN CRAFT COUNCIL RARE CRAFT FELLOWSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT**

Bob Kramer (Olympia, WA)

#### **2015 AMERICAN CRAFT COUNCIL RARE CRAFT FELLOWSHIP AWARD FINALISTS**

Elizabeth Brim (Penland, NC)

Mark Hewitt (Pittsboro, NC)

Mary Jackson (Charleston, SC)

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#### **About the American Craft Council**

The American Craft Council is a national, nonprofit public educational organization founded in 1943 by Aileen Osborn Webb. The mission of the Council is to champion craft. Programs include:

- the bimonthly, national award winning magazine *American Craft*
- annual juried shows presenting artists and their work in Baltimore, Atlanta, St. Paul and San Francisco
- leadership conferences on craft and educational workshops and seminars held online and in communities across the country
- the American Craft Council Awards honoring excellence
- a nationally recognized research library in Northeast Minneapolis

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

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