

MEDIA CONTACT

Aidan O'Connor, Goldstein Museum of Design, aidan@umn.edu

Amelia Narigon, College of Design, anarigon@umn.edu

Goldstein Museum of Design Presents *Firsthand: Contemporary Craft in Context*

What: The University of Minnesota's Goldstein Museum of Design opens its latest exhibition, *Firsthand: Contemporary Craft in Context*, on March 26.

When: March 26–August 3, 2024

Where: Goldstein Gallery, McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Ave, Saint Paul, MN 55108

Minnesota is remarkably rich in history, resources, education, and contemporary activity around craft. *Firsthand* spotlights five (a figurative handful) local and unique craft-design creators working today across a range of materials, backgrounds, styles, and scales.

With more than 75 items on display from across the Twin Cities and beyond, this loan-based exhibition showcases leather shoes, woolen knitwear, thrown pottery, ceramic tiles, and youth-built boats. Exceptional finished products are contextualized through the people, tools, operations, and environments that produced them.

Exhibition contributors include Hark Weber Handmade Shoes, Makwa Studio, Cooter Pottery & Handweaving, Mercury Mosaics, and Urban Boatbuilders. The installation is introduced with a selection from the art series *Carlyle's Tools* by local design leader Eric Madsen.

Whether you come to this exhibition as a student, practitioner, or consumer of craft—or completely uninitiated!—we hope the objects and stories here offer valuable context. In our shared local environment, craft is something we can all get our heads around, and our hands on.

This exhibition is organized by the Goldstein Museum of Design with James Boyd Brent, Mertie Buckman Professor of Design Education, and Thomas Mahota, M.S. Product Design.

Learn more at design.umn.edu/goldstein-museum-design.

About the Goldstein Museum of Design

Established in 1976, The Goldstein Museum of Design (GMD) is a research center in the College of Design and the only design museum in the Upper Midwest. Through its teaching collection of 36,000+ multidisciplinary objects and free, public exhibitions on the St Paul and East Bank campuses, it advances learning in design history and practice for students as well as the greater community.