



*fine contemporary*  
***crafts***

**susan brandeis, juror**

**artspace**

*November 18, 2006–January 13, 2007*

**Gallery 1**



# *fine contemporary* *crafts*

Fine Contemporary Crafts is a Biennial National Juried Exhibition. The purpose of the exhibition is to recognize individual artists working in a variety of craft media and to provide exposure for their work.

## **Juror's Statement**

As you enter this exhibition expect to be dazzled, enchanted, challenged, and moved by a celebration of the handmade. Each object — whether created in glass, ceramic, metal, fiber, wood, paper, or other more non-traditional materials — embodies the maker's skill, thought, imagination, and worldview.

To select the works for this exhibition I sat for several days in my own quiet and darkened studio to examine the slides. By turns, I laughed out loud, winced with pain, or caught my breath with emotion. Some objects mesmerized me with displays of mastery and control. Some puzzled me. Some stirred me so deeply it was hard to continue to look. Some I couldn't actually "see" through the photographic barrier. I journeyed through both the pleasure of discovery and the pain of exclusion. In the end I was heartened by the genuine enthusiasm for making objects, coupled with the brave willingness to submit them to judgment.

I chose works that, to my eye, display mastery of materials; fine craftsmanship appropriate to the aesthetic; careful attention to detail; a sense of adventure; an awareness or engagement with the wider world; sincerity, heart, and intelli-

gence. I struck a balance between objects that exemplify the best of our traditional craft forms, and those that explore new ideas, directions, and possibilities. I chose both functional and non-functional works. All are well made, carry the evidence of the maker's hand, and, most importantly, touched that place in me from which my own work springs.

My family upbringing, my academic grounding in fine craft, and more than thirty years of studio practice have taught me to find value — and seek meaning — in the handmade. There is magic in a masterful maker who can wrest beauty and mystery from simple materials. That this happens through a deeply felt and highly rigorous creative process — with the heart open and the mind engaged — merely compounds the miracle. I invite you to look slowly and carefully, to question when you are puzzled, and to learn from the wonderful objects that surround you.



**Timothy Maddox, *Untitled*, paper bags, thread, oak hanger**