

Just Shoes: Where Art, Craft and Fantasy Meet
February 3 - March 16, 2022

Artist List

Ceramicist **Joanne Bédient** blends realism and fantasy in her hand built, raku-fired clay shoes. The experimentation imposed by this Japanese technique, which produces unique results with each firing, inspires her whimsical and graceful creations.

Constructed of mixed media and found objects, **Nina Bentley's** work tends to be conceptual in nature and focused on social issues. In 2004, she was the featured artist in a show for Barneys New York *Art Meets Fashion*. Her large sculpture *A Corporate Wife Service Award Bracelet* is in the permanent collection of the New Britain Museum of American Art.

Character designer **Dan Crowley** has created characters and puppets for television, as well as for Tiffany & Company and Hermes windows. He constructs his work from polymer clay mixed with mineral oil and paint.

Ann Johnson (Aka F. B. Fogg) began sculpting her line from dryer lint back in 1964 and has had two of her sculptures displayed in the East Wing of the White House. She works with abaca (a plant in the banana family that yields hemp), cotton rag, and dyes to create her whimsical designs.

A North Carolina native, **Joan Klimo**, designed shoes for Christian Dior. She also worked as an art director at Conde Nast in the 1960s and later as an editor at *Les Jardin des Modes* magazine in Paris. Klimo created her soft sculpture shoes out of fabric and mixed media.

Linda Leviton works in a variety of media, small scale and large, and has created many public art projects and installations nationally. Her fantasy shoes are made with coated and bare copper.

Joan McClutchy de Vidargas combines a life-long obsession with shoes with many years in the fashion industry to create bronze footwear. She sculpts in the lost-wax method, creating one of a kind pieces that marry this ancient art form with style and wit.

In 1998, sculptor **Daniele Pollitz** was commissioned by the G&P Foundation for Cancer Research, to sculpt the *Angel of Hope* award presented to President Bill Clinton. She works primarily interpreting the human body and abstract forms in resin and bronze clay (a clay-like material that turns into metal when fired in a kiln). Inspired by how it mimics glass, she molded her shoe creations from translucent acrylic resin into sensual shapes, subtly incorporating female faces.

Kevin Radu's work is constructed of steel and found industrial objects. He worked in various media and taught illustration at the Parsons School of Design. Radu created a 911 memorial for the Chrysler headquarters in Detroit.

Paper sculptor **Ida Rak** has had her work displayed in Tiffany's windows and has collaborated with Gottex on accessories. She tears, folds and layers hand painted paper to construct her creations.

Mixed media fiber artist **Irene Reed** was named a Master Craftsman by the *Society of Connecticut Craftsmen* and was included in two Smithsonian traveling exhibitions, which traveled to South America, Africa and throughout the United States. She worked in crochet as well as fabric, trapunto quilting, and found objects, and she invented the 3D stitching (crochet on top of trapunto quilting) used in her creations.

Anthony Rosiello worked in advertising for many years. He used Arches hot press watercolor paper and archival glue to create his intricate paper sculptures.

Mosaic artist **Sharon Von Senden** designed and constructed more than 20,000 square feet of mosaics with nearly 5 million pieces of glass for the City Museum of St. Louis. Her shoes are made from stained glass, Swarovski crystals and vintage stones.

Robert Steele studied at the École Nationale Supérieure Des Arts Décoratifs in Paris and spent his career in the fashion world. His structurally challenging designs are constructed from corrugated cardboard.

Robert Tabor spent his career as a costume designer who also worked in graphics, window display, prop design and production for Mattel Toys, MTV, Nickelodeon and more. His whimsical shoes were created from mixed media.

Dante Taparelli was recognized as a “distinguished artist” of the city of Rosario, (Argentina) and served as Director of Design and Urban Ministry for the Ministry of Culture. He has produced many important projects for the city, including five fashion biennials and an open air museum. His sculptural shoes are comprised of various woods, metals, found artifacts, and shoe lasts (the form which is shaped like a foot and is used by shoemakers in the manufacture and repair of shoes).

After studying architecture in Florence, **Tommaso Tastini** became a jewelry designer and sculptor, and worked as an assistant to several well-known artists including sculptors Chryssa, Ron Mehlman, and Beverly Pepper. He creates his fish themed shoes from Plexiglas.

Long-haul semi-trailer truck driver **Drake Phillip Wesson's** low-fired ceramic shoes were influenced by Art Deco designs.

Automata artist **Douglas Wilson's** sculptures can be seen in many collections worldwide, including the Arima Toys and Automata Museum in Japan. He works mainly in galvanized wire, stainless steel, silver, and acrylic film, composing his mechanized shoes with pliers

Keith Winchester's stilettos are constructed of armature wire, silk, resin, and beads.