

## Allied Craftsmen Today

2011 marks a major landmark for Allied Craftsmen and its major influence on craft and the community at large in the San Diego region. The Mingei International Museum of Art is exhibiting San Diego's Craft Revolution- From Post-War Modern to California Design 1945-1980. Below is an excerpt from The Mingei International Museum of Art.

*San Diego's Craft Revolution-From Post-War Modern to California Design will highlight many of the personalities and institutions in San Diego that fostered this creative community, including San Diego State University and the Allied Craftsmen. The Allied Craftsmen (AC), a membership organization for local craft artists, came to represent an extended family of San Diegans who would help define the concept of California Design in the 1960s and 1970s and gain widespread recognition in the areas of enameling, body ornament, architectural crafts and furniture design. participating in Pacific Standard Time, an unprecedented look into art from 1940-70.*

*"The Allied Craftsmen laid the foundation for a community that flourished and then flourished and then changed radically." said Dave Hampton, guest curator of San Diego's Craft Revolution, "from the essential forms of the mid-century modern years through Abstract Expressionism, late 1960s psychedelia and beyond."*

For the last twenty years leading up to the current exhibition, the group has continued to exhibit in a variety of venues including UCSD Craft Center, Palomar College, Southwestern College, Oceanside Museum of art, and The Center for the Arts, Escondido. In 2009, Allied Craftsmen put together an exhibition titled "Material Matters." The exhibition has come to define the current contemporary practices of the group and exemplifies the groups mission of producing artwork that pushes the limit of ones' chosen medium. Below is an excerpt written by The Center for the Arts, Escondido, CA.

### **MATERIAL** Selected Works by **MATTERS** Allied Craftsmen

*Material Matters showcases work by 23 members of Allied Craftsmen, a juried organization founded over 50 years ago comprised of nationally and internationally recognized artists currently living and working in the San Diego area. Their multi-media work is presented as immersive installations, engulfing the viewer in a visceral experience of both material and object. Each artist pursues their inspiration through innovative process and unconventional design using materials such as wood, clay, wire, fabric, metal, gold and silver.*

The groups major contributions to the community besides exhibiting comes in the form of Visiting Artists. Throughout the last twenty-years, we have sponsored Visiting artists, writers, and conferences throughout the region. Some artists include Richard Shaw, Janet Koplos, The Domestic Wood Conference at Southwestern College, Judith Nicolaidais "The Virgin Guadalupe" in Tijuana Mexico, Tony Marsh, Michael Hurwitz, and others.

Allied Craftsmen continues to be a major influence of contemporary craft and art in San Diego. We are one of the oldest and longest lasting groups that continue to operate in the country. The mission and intentions of the group have not changed over the years, but have continued to adapt to the art world as it evolves.

Levi J. Casias