

Let's Craft!

Did you know the Racine Art Museum has the largest contemporary craft artwork collection in North America? Let's explore fine art craft in RAM's collection.

Ceramics

RAM's collection of ceramics, which focuses on mid-to late-20th century American clay, is the most comprehensive segment of its permanent collection.

Clay artwork can be figurative, sculptural, functional and non-functional.

Clay is cooked in a **kiln**, a large oven that fires ceramic materials at very hot temperatures. **Raku** is a firing method that originated in Japan and takes preheated bisque out of a redhot kiln into containers with combustible materials. This produces an intense reduction atmosphere which affects the colors in glazes and clay bodies.

Glaze is clay paint. Finely ground mineral are applied by brushing, pouring, dipping, or spraying on the surface of bisque-fired ceramic ware.



Viola Frey
Three Figures and the Henry Moore Monkey, 2000
Glazed white earthenware
Racine Art Museum, Gift of David and Jacqueline Charak
Photography: Jon Bolton, Racine

Make Homemade Clay

2 cups salt
2/3 cups water
Saucepan
1 cup cornstarch
1/2 cup cold water

Directions

1. Stir salt and water in a saucepan over heat 4-5 minutes.
2. Remove from heat; add cornstarch and cold water.
3. Stir until smooth; return to heat and cook until thick.
4. Allow the clay to cool, then shape as desired.
5. When dry, decorate with paint, markers, glitter, and so on.
6. If you like, finish with clear acrylic spray or clear nail polish.
7. Store unused clay in a Ziploc bag

Now try making a clay sculpture!

Clay Teapots

In 1999, collector Donna Moog offered RAM a gift of over 250 teapots. The impact of the Moog collection cannot be understated as it offered a large body of work with diverse artists and styles represented. Since this gift, RAM has added over 200 teapots from various other donors, thereby establishing one of the largest public collections of contemporary artist-made teapots in the United States.

Teapots have a body, handle, spot and lid.

Some teapots are functional and other are non-functional (sculptural). Look at the teapot on the right. Do you think it is functional?



Annette Corcoran
Mockingbird with Cat, 1994
Terracotta and glazed procelain
Racine Art Museum, Gift of David and Jacqueline Charak
Photography: Jon Bolton, Racine

Draw a teapot

Sing "I'm a Little Teapot" while drawing your design!

Glass

Combining the work of American artists with important pieces from international artists, RAM's Studio Glass collection documents worldwide developments in glass since 1964 when Harvey K. Littleton and Dominick Labino held workshops on the grounds of the Toledo Museum of Art. These workshops brought blown glass out of industry and into the artist's studio.

Several of the most common techniques for producing **glass art** include: blowing, kiln-casting, fusing, slumping, pâte-de-verre, flame-working, hot-sculpting, and cold-working.



Harvey K. Littleton
Bended Combo Form, 1983
Glass
Racine Art Museum, Gift of Donald and Carol Wiiken
Photography: Jon Bolton, Racine

How is glass made?

Glass is made from *liquid* sand by heating ordinary sand (mostly composed of silicon dioxide SiO_2) until it melts and turns into a liquid.

Watch a video on glass blowing:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgvJbq2k6gM>

Visit Hot Shop Glass in Racine and watch the process in live action!



Joel Philip Myers
Blue Vessel with Multicolored Shards (CFCBH6D-93), 1982
Glass
Racine Art Museum, Gift of Donald and Carol Wiiken
Photography: Jon Bolton, Racine



Richard Jolley
Tropical Fish Vase Bowl, ca. 1985
Glass
Racine Art Museum, Gift of Stanton and Judith Brody
Photography: Jon Bolton, Racine, W



Dale Chihuly
Soft Cylinder, 1983
Glass
Racine Art Museum, Gift of Donald and Carol Wiiken
Photography: Jon Bolton, Racine

Look at the blue glass piece above by Joel Philip Myers. The shards of glass look like a wave. Draw a blue wave:

Can you find the fish in the glass bowl above? Draw a fish in the bowl below:



Flecks of color can be seen in the Dale Chihuly artwork. What is your favorite color? Draw a small image below with this color:

Metal / Art Jewelry

RAM's metal collection focuses on American studio jewelry, rather than holloware and architectural metal work. The pieces document the major movements of American studio jewelry ranging from a concern with semi-precious material to more sculptural forms that challenge the relationship between art and the body and finally today's preoccupation with the narrative and the figure.



Above:
Ken Loeber
White Rouge Pin, 2012
18k-gold and pearl
1 3/4 x 9/16 x 7/16 inches
Collection of Karen Henrietta Keland
Photography: Ralph Gabriner



Arline Fisch
Woven Feathers Bracelet, 1970
Sterling silver, Macaw feathers, and Egyptian faience beads
Racine Art Museum, Gift of Jane R. Gittings
in Memory of Irene Purcell Johnson
Photography: Michael Tropea, Chicago



Michael John Jerry
Elephant Trumpet Neckpiece, ca. 1970
Sterling silver, nylon, and garnet
12 1/4 x 6 x 1 1/4 inches
Racine Art Museum, Gift of the Artist
Photography: Jon Bolton, Racine

Metal Sculpture



Albert Paley
Demilune with Torchiere
Trained in jewelry and metalsmithing, internationally recognized ironworker Albert Paley has used metals to create adornment, furniture, large-scale sculpture, and architectural ornamentation. Because he works with metal at a high temperature, when it is most plastic, Paley can create baroque, looping forms.
Learn more about Albert Paley with this Craft in America video:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NAGdVu_knLU

Make a Necklace at Home

Using supplies most commonly found in the kitchen or in the recycled can, make a necklace or piece of wearable art.

What can you use?

Straws, paper plates, string, packaging parts, newspaper, postcards, plastic utensils, coffee filters, odds and ends around the house.



Need more inspiration? Check out the necklace below by Robert W. Ebendorf. He collected objects found on the beach and upcycled them into wearable art.



Robert W. Ebendorf
Off the Street, From the Beach Necklace, 1992
Found plastic objects and base metal
2 1/8 x 14 3/4 inches diameter
Racine Art Museum, Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Brent Best
Photography: Tom Van Eynde

Activity:

Take a walk and see what you can find to make into wearable art.

Wood

Works of art in wood are a portion of RAM's collection that has grown in recent years. RAM's wood collection already feature remarkable examples of contemporary furniture, including sculptural pieces by artists like Wendell Castle. Recently, the museum has begun to develop a collection of turned vessels from artists such as Mark Lindquist and Edward Moulthrop that highlight the natural characteristics of wood itself.

Wendell Castle is described as the "father of the art furniture movement." This desk is one of the first examples of artist-made furniture to come into the museum's collection and is one of the most important works that RAM owns.



Wendell Castle
Desk, 1967
 Cherry and mahogany laminate, plywood, and silver leaf
 Racine Art Museum, Gift of SC Johnson in Honor of the 50th Anniversary of Wustum Museum
 Photography: Jon Bolton, Racine, W

The above desk is an important work in RAM's collection.
 What do you like to collect?



Mark Lindquist
Analog Series, 1993
 Oak burl
 Racine Art Museum, Gift of Jane and Arthur Mason
 Photography: Michael Tropea, Chicago, IL



Tom Rauschke and Kaaren Wiken
Forest Goblet, 1998
 Ash and dyed cotton thread
 Racine Art Museum, Gift of an Anonymous Donor
 Photography: Jon Bolton, Racine, WI

Can you find an animal hidden in the wood goblet by artists Kaaren Wiken and Tom Rauschke?

Draw an image of this animal in a forest:



John Cederquist
Bluto's Diner, 2005
 Wood, epoxy resin, and ink
 Racine Art Museum, Gift of the Estate of Linda Brooks Sullivan
 Photography: Gary Searcher

Wood artists use a variety of woods from different trees. How many types of trees can you list:



← A tree burl is formed coming out of the side of the tree when the grain of the tree has grown in a distorted and unusual manner. Wood artists create beautiful art from burls. Find the artwork above that is made from an oak burl.

Fiber

One of the largest in the US, RAM's contemporary basket collection forms a major portion of its works of fiber art. A substantial gift from Karen Johnson Boyd helped RAM establish this comprehensive body of modern baskets. It represents at least 25 major artists who work with fibers, including Lillian Elliot, John McQueen, Leon Niehues, and Kay Sekimachi. These artists used both natural and industrial with techniques such as looping, knotting, and papermaking materials, to create the works in RAM's collection.

RAM is also documenting leading figures and techniques in the Art Fabric movement, incorporating tapestries, wall hangings, quilts, and wearable art in its collection.



John McQueen
American, 1943 –
Untitled, 1994
Tulip Poplar Bark
16 1/2 x 12 x 9 inches
Racine Art Museum
The Cotsen Contemporary American Basket Collection
Photography: Jon Bolton, Racine

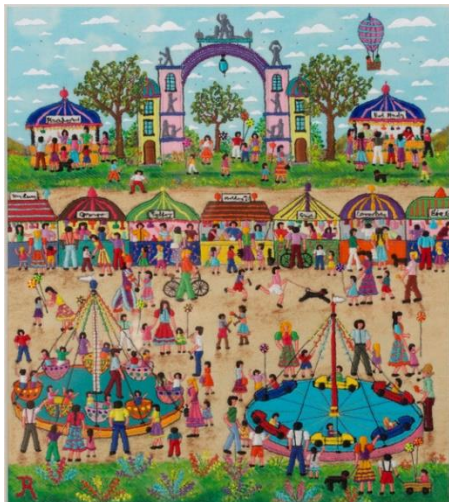
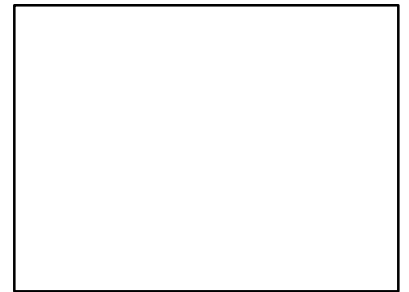
Find the letters!

The artist John McQueen often uses letters and text in his art. Circle the letters that you find in the image on the left:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y
Z

The artwork in the image below is a contemporary quilt design and features images of people and animals.

Draw a quilt square design here:



Rosita Johanson
German, 1937 – 2007
Day at the Exhibition, 1993
Dyed cotton fabric, dyed cotton thread,
metallic thread and acrylic paint
9 x 8 inches
Racine Art Museum
Gift of Mobilia Gallery, Cambridge, MA
Photography: Jon Bolton, Racine, WI

Tell me a Story!

Rosita Johanson's fiber art is full of narrative and tells a story about people at a fair.

Tell a story by looking at this image:



Susan Shie and James Acord
The Fire Spirit: A Green Quilt, 1993
Commercial fabrics, beads, puffy paint,
leather, found objects, and dyed cotton thread
54 1/2 x 39 x 1 inches
Racine Art Museum, Gift of Dr. Ellen M. Poss
Photography: Jon Bolton, Racine

Polymer

The Racine Art Museum's commitment to establishing a permanent collection of polymer jewelry, beads, and sculptural objects led to a groundbreaking exhibition. In the Fall of 2011, *Terra Nova: Polymer Art at the Crossroads* opened and featured over 200 objects-both from RAM's permanent collection and on loan-made of polymer, including adornment, vessels, and furniture. The show emphasized the development of this material as significant medium for artwork in recent decades.

Polymer art is sculptural and often wearable. Imagine you are wearing the necklace by Elise Winters.



Is it Plastic or Clay?

Polymer often referred to as a clay. However, clay is a natural resource that comes from the earth while polymer is a plastic material, essentially PVC (polyvinyl chloride). It can be shaped, molded, and reshaped like earth clay. Polymer is malleable until it is baked at a low temperature at 275° in a convection or regular oven, while clay from the earth is baked in a kiln at a very high temperature, approx. 1800-2400°.

Left:

Elise Winters

Red Ruffle Cascade Neckpiece, 2009

Polymer and acrylic paint

9 1/4 x 5 1/2 x 3 5/8 inches

Racine Art Museum

Gift of the Artist and Sherwood Rudin

Photography: Penina Meisel

Think COLOR!

Polymer clay comes in a wide range of colors. To create new colors, use two or more pieces of polymer in different colors and blend them by rolling and re-rolling and twisting multiple times.

If you mix red and yellow polymer, what color will you get?



Jeffrey Lloyd Dever

Love Bottle, 1998

Polymer

9 1/8 x 5 1/2 x 3 5/8 inches

Racine Art Museum, Gift of the Artist

Photography: Penina Meisels

Make a Polymer Cane

A **polymer** clay **cane** is a log of **polymer** that's made with a design that runs the entire length of the log. ... When slices of **polymer canes** are arranged to make a field of flowers, this can be called millefiori. Millefiori buttons and beads made from slices of **polymer flower canes**.

<https://www.sculpey.com/create/project/simple-canes/>



Can you guess what this object is?



Kathleen Dustin

Mother Purse, 2005

Polymer, bronze, glass beads, and cotton thread

6 1/2 x 3 5/8 x 2 3/8 inches

w/strap: 25 7/8 x 3 5/8 x 2 3/8 inches

Racine Art Museum, Gift of Marilyn Radke

Photography: Penina Meisels

It's a purse made of polymer!