

Clinton Center Announces New Temporary Exhibit
The White House Collection of American Crafts: 25th Anniversary Exhibit
Opens September 17

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (August 15, 2018) - The Clinton Presidential Center's upcoming temporary exhibit, *The White House Collection of American Crafts: 25th Anniversary Exhibit* opens on September 17, 2018. Assembled in 1993 at the request of First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, *The White House Collection of American Crafts* was created to coincide with the year designated "The Year of American Craft: A Celebration of the Creative Works of the Hand" by a Joint Resolution of Congress and a Presidential Proclamation by President George H. W. Bush. The collection includes 73 works created by 78 of America's foremost craft artisans.

The exhibition debuted during the Clinton family's first holiday season in the White House in 1993 and then was exhibited in museums across the United States until 2000. The Clinton Center's 25th anniversary exhibit is the first time in 18 years that *The White House Collection of American Crafts* has been on display.

"When President Clinton, Chelsea and I moved into the White House more than 25 years ago, we realized that we were temporary residents of a 200-year-old museum that belonged, and still belongs, to the American people," said Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton. "We thought it was fitting that the 'people's house' become a showcase for one of the nation's oldest cultural forms. And we wanted to make sure the White House continued to reflect the vital role that art and culture have played in our democracy for more than two centuries."

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton worked with Michael Monroe, then curator-in-charge of the Smithsonian's Renwick Gallery, to curate a collection of beautiful, functional works of art from contemporary American artisans. The 73 objects in the craft collection were installed in the public and private rooms of the White House.

The pieces within the collection illustrate the skill, imagination, and vitality characteristic of craft in the 1990s. Using glass, wood, clay, fiber and metal, these artisans reveal their ability to manipulate materials in inventive ways, expressing their creative vision in objects of striking beauty. Despite the increasing emergence of computer technology and industrial design at the time, the collection displays the intimate and physical qualities of handmade objects.

The collection features work by 78 artists, ranging from established to emerging in their mediums in the 1990s, including Dale Chihuly, Cliff Lee, Sam Maloof, and Joan Mondale, among others. Six Arkansas artisans are part of the collection, including

Michael Haley and Susy Siegele; Robyn Horn; Leon Niehues and Sharon Niehues; and Ed Pennebaker.

“Mrs. Clinton took her role as First Lady and temporary custodian of America’s house very seriously,” said Stephanie S. Streett, executive director of the Clinton Foundation. “She worked tirelessly to make the White House a showplace for the very best of American artistry. With this exhibition, she hoped to elevate the role and visibility of American Craft and its artisans. Mrs. Clinton has always believed in the power of art to uplift and inspire, and I’m thrilled that visitors of all ages will have the opportunity to see this beautiful collection in its entirety.”

The White House Collection of American Crafts: 25th Anniversary Exhibit is sponsored by Bank of America and the Windgate Foundation.

The Clinton Foundation staff has created grade-specific educational programs and tours to accompany this exhibit. School groups are asked to make reservations two weeks in advance and always tour the Clinton Center at no cost. Reservations can be made online at <http://www.clintonpresidentialcenter.org/education> or by calling 501-748-0419. A series of public programs will be announced.

The White House Collection of American Crafts: 25th Anniversary Exhibit closes on March 31, 2019.