

An artful array of American crafts

Coats of many colors to handcrafted chairs; fretted bowls and baskets to a kaleidoscope of glass; jewel-like lacquered handbags to elegantly crafted precious gems—all will be on view April 27-30 at the 13th annual Smithsonian Craft Show, which is moving this year to the National Building Museum at Fourth and F Streets, N.W., Washing-

ton, D.C. Organized by the Smithsonian Women's Committee, the juried show and sale will feature 120 artists from across the United States.

"The Smithsonian Craft Show has a strong reputation as a high-quality show," says juror Bruce Pepich who, along with two other jurors, was charged with the task of whittling down 1,270 applicants to 120 participants. "We were looking for an interesting mixture of media and of styles and technical approaches," says Pepich. "Innovative design and personal expression, or soul, were key, but above all we were guided by the level of professionalism exhibited in the execution of the work."

The chosen artists reflect the diversity of their chosen crafts. Raised in the coal-

fields of eastern Kentucky, Linda Fifield refers to herself as a traditional mountain woman. "I've been working with my hands all my life," she says. For the past ten years she has been turning out wooden baskets embellished with beads. Boston-based artist Marc Levine started out as a jeweler. Now he's combining space-age plastics and Japanese lacquer techniques to create colorful clutch handbags. Husband-and-wife glass-makers Kurt Swanson and Lisa Schwartz work out of a barn in Carmel, New York, to create vibrant handblown glass. New Orleans sculptor John Flemming makes leather come alive in fanciful masks.

For hours, admission fees and advance tickets, call (202) 357-4000.

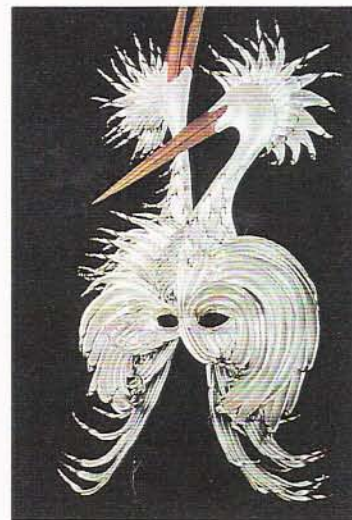
Diane M. Bolz



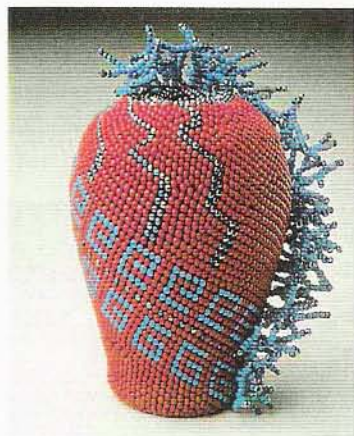
Glass bubble vases are by Lisa Schwartz, Kurt Swanson.



Wood-and-leather reclining chair by Robert Erickson and Liese Greensfelder is a variation on the traditional 1930s Morris chair.

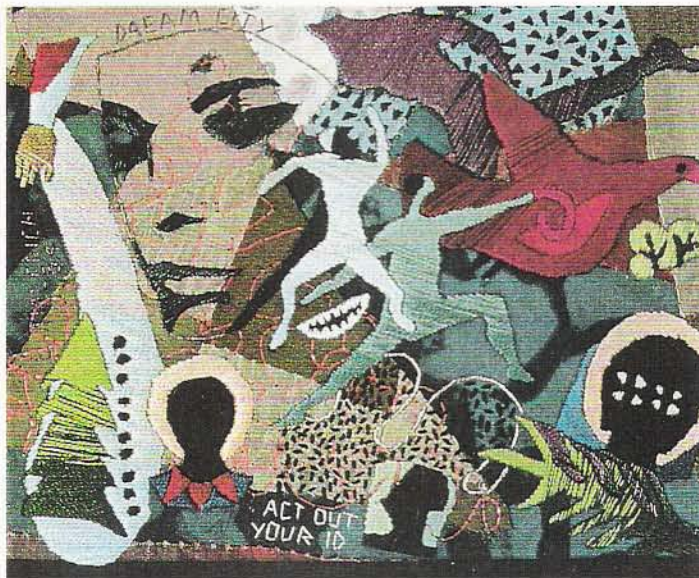


Snowy egrets strut in John Flemming's dyed leather mask.



Vivid beaded basket is the work of Linda Fifield.

Fiber art titled *Act Out Your Id* is by Lee Malerich.



Lacquered clutches are by Boston artist Marc Levine.