

# CRAFT IN AMERICA

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT**

Helen Yuen, Senior Promotions Specialist

[helen@craftinamerica.org](mailto:helen@craftinamerica.org)

(202) 352-8987

## **HOME**

### **PREMIERES ON PBS**

Exploring the Many Meanings and Environments of Home

**November 2022** (Digital Release)

**December 16, 2022, 10pm** (PBS Broadcast Premiere)

**(check local listings)**



**HOME** visits environments filled with artistry and meaning

Pictured: Wharton Esherick Museum. Courtesy: Wharton Esherick Museum. Photo: Charles Uniatowski

[Los Angeles] - **HOME** streams on the digital platforms of PBS and [Craft in America](https://www.craftinamerica.org) starting November 2022, and premieres on PBS December 16 at 10pm (check local listings). The episode is part of the newest season of Craft in America, the Peabody Award-winning documentary series discovering the

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beauty, significance and relevance of handmade objects and the artists who create them. The idea of Home has taken on heightened importance in recent years. Craft in America's new episode embraces its many meanings—from the physical structure, to the belongings we cherish, to the meals we share with family and friends. “Through the artists and stories represented in this episode, **HOME** honors the significance of our surroundings, while also acknowledging the challenging histories that have shaped our ideas of it,” shares Carol Sauvion, Executive Director of Craft in America. Executive Producer Patricia Bischetti adds, “**HOME** offers a nuanced exploration of the environments we make and the personal, historical, and creative influences that shape them.”

[Download press images.](#) [View the trailer.](#)

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**“Craft in America...[has a] knack for telling big stories...**

about the formation of culture, the purpose of creativity, the idea that the pursuits of beauty and utility are foundational to humanity.”

**- *New York Times***

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## **FEATURED ARTISTS**

[Syd Carpenter](#)  
Philadelphia, PA

[Biskakone Greg Johnson](#) and Ojibwe Tribe  
Lac du Flambeau, WI

[Helen Drutt English](#)  
Philadelphia, PA

[North House Folk School](#)  
Grand Marais, MN)

[Wharton Esherick](#)  
Philadelphia, PA

[Sim Van der Ryn](#) and the Outlaw Builders  
San Francisco, CA & Northern California

## **EPISODE HIGHLIGHTS**

- **Ojibwe Tribe (Wisconsin)**

Our exploration of handmade environments and hand built homes begins with the **Ojibwe wild rice harvest** in Northern Wisconsin. Members of the Ojibwe tribe have been living in this region for generations, and tribal member and craftsman Biskakone Greg Johnson shares his mastery of the crafts and traditions of his people.

- **[North House Folk School](#) (Grand Marais, MN)**

Our crew then films the start of the construction of a timber frame house at the **North House Folk School**. Here, Scandinavian and northern European traditions and techniques are taught to craftspeople of all skill levels interested in building and living a well-crafted life.

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- [Syd Carpenter](#) (Philadelphia, PA)

We meet sculptor **Syd Carpenter** whose work sheds light on the obstacles faced by African American farmers to remain landowners. Carpenter's work speaks to the systemic racism that continues to threaten the homes of many communities throughout the nation.

- [Wharton Esherick](#) (Philadelphia, PA)

We explore the life and legacy of **Wharton Esherick**, one of this country's most innovative artists who reimagined "home" through the creation of his hand-built studio, furniture, utensils, and other objects that expressed his commitment to artful living.

- [Outlaw Builders](#) (Northern California)

Viewers are then introduced to a series of experimental buildings from visionary architect **Sim Van der Ryn** and the "Outlaw Builders," an irreverent group who flourished among the counterculture of the 1960s and early 70s. We take our cameras to the sleepy Marin County town of Inverness, where on a remote wooded ridge we find a remarkable example of this sensibility.

- [Helen Drutt English](#) (Philadelphia, PA)

To conclude the episode, we turn our attention inward, to the handmade objects that fill our homes and the histories that impact our sense of place. In Philadelphia, **Helen Drutt English**, considered the "godmother of craft and a global ambassador," shares her remarkable collection, which reflects handmade objects at their best.

## ARTIST BIOS

### [Syd Carpenter](#) (Philadelphia, PA)

Syd Carpenter sculpts with clay to tell stories of African American culture, US history, legacy, and courage. The medium feeds naturally into her exploration of African American land ownership, farming, and gardening. She is Professor Emerita of Art and holds the Peggy Chan Professorship in Black Studies at Swarthmore College. She earned her BFA and her MFA from the Tyler School of Art at Temple University. Her work can be found at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the University of Illinois, the Renwick Gallery at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Fuller Craft Museum, and many more collections both private and public.

### [Helen Drutt English](#) (Philadelphia, PA)

Helen Drutt English has championed and promoted American craft internationally and helped to elevate studio craft into the realm of fine art. Her home is filled with the finest examples of craft

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objects and reflects her life-long commitment to studio craft at its best. Drutt English is a curatorial consultant, art historian, educator, and author. She founded Helen Drutt Gallery in Philadelphia in 1973. She has received numerous honors for her profound impact on the field, including Honorary Fellow of the American Craft Council and the Lifetime Achievement in Crafts award from the National Museum of Women in the Arts.

## **Wharton Esherick (Philadelphia, PA)**

Wharton Esherick (1887-1970) was a woodworker who worked and lived in Paoli, PA, where his hand-built studio houses the Wharton Esherick Museum today. He was one of the artists of the early 20th century who were concerned with conceiving and creating a uniquely American handwork. The majority of his works, including the massive ones for which he is most famous, were produced with hand tools similar to those used by eastern Pennsylvania's original settlers. Esherick only began using power tools (except for a band saw built with bicycle wheels) in the 1960s. Though, he kept in step with his times by creating works that spanned decades of changing artistic and design trends. Today, his house is the [Wharton Esherick Museum](#) in Malvern, PA. It is a must-visit for anyone interested in woodwork or craft history.

## **Biskakone Greg Johnson and Ojibwe Tribe (Lac du Flambeau, WI)**

Members of the Ojibwe tribe have been living in the Lac du Flambeau region for centuries, and tribal member and craftsman **Biskakone Greg Johnson** is a cultural practitioner and educator committed to learning and teaching the traditional methods and crafts of the Ojibwe. He has revived the crafts of beadwork, winter bark basket making, weaving winnowing baskets and cedar bark mats, moccasin making, and canoe building. He is an instructor at the North House Folk School, teaching the skills and knowledge of his culture. He is also an Ojibwe language teacher.

## **North House Folk School (Grand Marais, MN)**

The **North House Folk School** was founded in 1997 with a dedication to traditional craft and cooperative learning. The school has grown over the years, now hosting over 3,000 students per year and offering over 350 classes. Located in the northwoods of Minnesota on the shore of Lake Superior, it is one of the few places in the world where timber framing is being practiced and taught.

## **Sim Van der Ryn and the Outlaw Builders (San Francisco, CA & Northern California)**

Visionary architect **Sim Van der Ryn** designed and built California state government's first energy efficient and climate-responsive building, while serving as State Architect for Governor Jerry Brown. This work placed Van der Ryn at the vanguard of the Green Architecture and Sustainable Design movement. He is the President of the Ecological Design Collaborative and author of several influential books, including *Design for an Empathic World: Reconnecting People, Nature, and Self*, *Sustainable Communities*, and *Ecological Design*. While working as a professor of architecture at UC Berkeley for 40 years, he founded the "Outlaw Builders," an irreverent group who flourished among the counterculture of the 1960s and early 70s. Their driving principle was good design, with disregard for building code, rules, and regulations. A remarkable example of this sensibility was built by the group in Inverness, California where it still stands today.

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**Early Digital Release** is available on all station-branded PBS platforms including [PBS.org](https://www.pbs.org) and the [PBS Video App](#), available on iOS, Android, Roku, Apple TV, Android TV, Amazon Fire TV, Samsung Smart TV, Chromecast, and the Craft in America [website](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

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## ABOUT CRAFT IN AMERICA

**Craft in America** is the Peabody Award-winning series on PBS exploring America's creative spirit through the language and traditions of the handmade. With 14 seasons produced since 2007, the series takes viewers on a journey to the artists, origins and techniques of American craft. Each episode contains stories from diverse regions and cultures, blending history with living practice and exploring issues of identity, ritual, philosophy and creative expression. Craft in America's organizational efforts include educator guides that adhere to national standards, and the Craft in America Center in Los Angeles, California. Craft in America is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Learn more at [craftinamerica.org](https://craftinamerica.org)

## OUR MISSION

To promote and advance original handcrafted work through programs in all media

## OUR GOALS

To document the importance of handmade objects and the artists who make them  
To provide a gateway to discover, explore and experience craft  
To celebrate our nation's cultures through craft

8415 West Third Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90048

[info@craftinamerica.org](mailto:info@craftinamerica.org) | [craftinamerica.org](https://craftinamerica.org)



## HOME

More information and artist bios  
[craftinamerica.org/episode/home](https://craftinamerica.org/episode/home)

Press images

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/xufylanweviqolrj7bik4/h?dl=0&rlkey=0v7opd7nnnid5oflm9j8pp85x>