

A journey to the origins, artists and techniques of American craft

# CRAFT IN AMERICA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 9, 2013

## CRAFT IN AMERICA's New Episode Premieres on PBS Friday, December 20, 2013 at 9pm\*

***Craft in America: Holiday*** embraces familiar and new winter celebrations as part of our American experience with the handmade

Los Angeles, CA - CRAFT IN AMERICA, the Peabody Award-winning and the Emmy-nominated series dedicated to exploring craft in our nation, continues Season Five with **HOLIDAY**, airing on PBS primetime, **Friday, December 20, 2013 at 9pm\***.

***Craft in America: Holiday*** celebrates some of our most important cultural and religious customs and leads viewers directly to their own creativity.



Meet **Harley Refsal**, the acclaimed wood carver and Nordic folk artisan at the John C. Campbell Folk School in North Carolina. "Many holiday traditions, Christian and non-Christian, come from the winter solstice which was a pagan holiday that marked the start of the solar year and celebrated light and the rebirth of the sun. Santa, the Christmas tree, gifts and special meals all had their beginnings in the winter solstice."



Next, watch the annual **National Gingerbread House Competition** held at the **Grove Park Inn** in Asheville, North Carolina. Hundreds of extraordinary entries from across the country are proudly displayed. Watch the excitement build among the competitors and judges leading up to the announcement of the grand prize winner.



The **Biltmore House**, a magnificent estate with 250 rooms and 8,000 acres in the Blue Ridge Mountains, is the largest privately owned home in the United States. Built by George Vanderbilt and first opened to friends and family on Christmas Eve in 1895, the grand home is adorned with decorations and mementos that hint at timeless holidays of a glorious bygone age.



In Colorado, artist **Susan Garson** hand paints fanciful designs on menorahs that she forms from clay. Susan takes us to her congregation for a special Chanukah celebration that includes lighting candles, singing songs, and playing Dreidel, a game of chance.



In San Antonio, Texas, the colorful, creative Mexican influence is particularly evident at Christmas when the city sparkles with 150,000 lights on the River Walk. Follow hundreds of people in the **Gran Posada** procession as they sing and light candles, walking through the downtown streets, uniting the community through story and song. **Garcia Art Glass** is an internationally acclaimed glass studio. Watch a magical transformation as master glass blowers Dora Garcia and Gerardo Muñoz coax molten glass into wildly colorful ornaments. To further highlight the Mexican influence on San Antonio's holiday celebrations, ceramic artist **Veronica Castillo** creates a vibrant Navidad Tree of Life. Meet **Isabel and Enrique Sanchez** who will show us how they make traditional tamales for the holidays. And finally, **Kathleen Trenchard** walks us through the steps to make luminarias which when lit, create sparkling illuminations and a festive holiday ambiance.

**Craft in America: Holiday** embraces traditions, both familiar and new - all part of our American experience with the handmade.

PBS viewers will have all the information they need to create their own holiday heirlooms.

Please visit: [www.pbs.org/craftinamerica](http://www.pbs.org/craftinamerica)

\*check local listings

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The Craft in America series is the result of years of advocacy, research and film making by Executive Producer/Director Carol Sauvion. "Craft is once again proving its relevance as people return to the handmade."

Ancillary projects include hours of online videos and interactive learning materials, museum exhibitions, the Random House book *Craft in America: Celebrating Two Centuries of Artists and Objects*, and the free-to-the-public Craft in America Center located in Los Angeles, offering artist talks, exhibitions, workshops and a library of publications on the history and techniques of craft.

For more about Craft in America:

[craftinamerica.org](http://craftinamerica.org)

[pbs.org/craftinamerica](http://pbs.org/craftinamerica)

[facebook.com/craftinamerica](https://facebook.com/craftinamerica)

[youtube.com/craftinamerica2007](https://youtube.com/craftinamerica2007)

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