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**ARTISTS TACKLE SUSTAINABILITY, SHOW INGENUITY BY REPURPOSING
MATERIALS & CASTOFFS IN “NOTHING GOES TO WASTE”
at Houston Center for Contemporary Craft January 29 – May 7, 2022**

**Nothing Goes to Waste
January 29 – May 7, 2022**

Main Gallery
Houston Center for Contemporary Craft
4848 Main Street, Houston, TX 77002

Hours & Admission

Current hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 10 AM – 5 PM. Admission is free. Visitors must wear masks and practice social distancing. Visit www.crafthouston.org for the latest information.

(HOUSTON, TX) November 11, 2021 – This winter, Houston Center for Contemporary Craft (HCCC) showcases a survey of artists who find exciting ways to reuse and repurpose materials, scraps, and castoffs through ingenuity in *Nothing Goes to Waste*. Highlighting works created from discarded materials like ceramic shards, cut paper, and marble remnants, the exhibition explores how salvaged material can inspire creativity and provoke curiosity about the impact various industrial and artistic processes have on the ecology of the planet.

In the face of stifling realities such as the pandemic, many artists have shifted their studio practices and enlisted community support, using reclaimed materials from their networks in meaningful ways. Prompted by recent attacks on the reliability of the U.S. Postal Service, paper artist Leigh Suggs developed her *Postal Quilt* series, made from thousands of security envelopes that she collected from individuals across the country. In conversation with the communal history of the medium of quilting, these folded and stitched paper compositions pay tribute to postal workers and the critical role they fill in American life.

In response to the increased production rate of single-use items, particularly following the onset of the pandemic, Calder Kamin creates colorful and entertaining creatures from recycled materials like plastic bags and cutlery. Inspired by nature’s adaptability, Kamin draws on the resourcefulness of the Earth’s biodiversity, calling upon individuals to curtail their consumption habits and make use of what they have.

While it is common knowledge that many industries yield a high volume of material waste, the amount of energy and resources expended in the production of art is less openly discussed. However, artists like ceramicist Jeff Forster are taking a closer look at the sustainability of their own practices. As an educator, Forster has developed an awareness of how much waste is produced in a single semester of his ceramic art

classes. In order to conserve resources in his own work, he collects and incorporates leftover clays, slips, and glazes into abstract sculptures. His experimental firings yield alluring fissures of color and texture that evoke the geologic origins of the multi-fired layers of his materials.

HCCC Curator Kathryn Hall comments, “Now, more than ever, we need to reevaluate how materials are collected and utilized in order to ensure the health and longevity of our planet. *Nothing Goes to Waste* celebrates the fun, generative, and restorative benefits of sustainability through craft practices, and we’re excited to showcase this group of artists, who contribute to the legacy of reuse in the history of craft.”

Nothing Goes to Waste is curated by HCCC Curator Kathryn Hall.

About Houston Center for Contemporary Craft

Celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, Houston Center for Contemporary Craft (HCCC) is a nonprofit visual arts center dedicated to advancing education about the process, product, and history of craft. HCCC continues to serve as a treasured resource in the Houston arts community and the region by showcasing emerging and acclaimed artists in exhibitions, introducing visitors of all ages to contemporary craft through hands-on and virtual programming, and supporting the development of working artists through its artist residency program.

HCCC is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 AM – 5 PM. Admission is free. Before visiting, the public should visit www.crafthouston.org to view visitor guidelines, including the requirement to wear face masks and practice social distancing throughout the building. HCCC is located in the Museum District at 4848 Main Street, three blocks south of the Wheeler Ave. MetroRail station. Free parking is available directly behind the facility, off Rosedale and Travis Street.

HCCC is supported by individual donors and members and funded in part by The Brown Foundation; Houston Endowment, Inc.; the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance; Texas Commission on the Arts; the National Endowment for the Arts, the Kinder Foundation; the Morgan Foundation; Windgate Charitable Foundation; and the Wortham Foundation. HCCC is a member of the Houston Museum District and the Midtown Arts District.

For more information, call 713-529-4848 or visit www.crafthouston.org. Find HCCC on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram @CraftHouston.

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