

WINTERTHUR HOSTS *EARLY AMERICAN LIFE'S* DIRECTORY OF TRADITIONAL AMERICAN CRAFTS

30th Anniversary Issue Recognizing Year's Best Artisans Photographed in Museum and Garden

WINTERTHUR, DELAWARE—Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library was honored to serve as the location to showcase this year's "best of the best" in American heritage craftsmanship for *Early American Life's* prestigious "Directory of Traditional American Crafts." Now in its 30th year, the Directory showcases the winners of the magazine's annual competition of artisans who best preserve America's heritage of handcraftsmanship by reflecting classic designs in new creations.

"Winterthur was delighted to welcome the fine work of these artisans, which beautifully complemented the Museum's collection of American decorative arts," said Linda Eaton, Winterthur's John L. & Marjorie P. McGraw Director of Collections & Senior Curator of Textiles, who also served as a judge in the competition. "The artisans demonstrated a mastery of traditional techniques and the scholarship that informs them. We congratulate the winners for earning a place in *Early American Life's* respected Directory."

The Directory appears in the August 2015 issue of *Early American Life*, a national magazine focusing on architecture, decorative arts, period style, and social history from colonial times through the mid-19th Century. The Directory has been used for nearly three decades by curators at living history museums, owners of traditional homes, and motion picture producers to find artisans to make period-appropriate furnishings and accessories for displays, collections, and use.

"The judges look for authentic design and workmanship, whether the piece is a faithful reproduction or the artisan's interpretation of period style," said Tess Rosch, publisher of *Early American Life*. "Scholarship, as well as use of period tools and techniques, is particularly valued in this competition."

In addition to Eaton, judges included Winterthur Assistant Curator Lisa Minardi and Winterthur Associate Curator of Decorative Arts Ann Wagner as well as curators from the National Trust, Museums of Colonial Williamsburg, National Heritage Museum, Winterthur Museum, Old Sturbridge Village, Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village, Saco Museum, and Southern Highland Craft Guild, plus antiques dealers, independent scholars, and professional instructors. Key among selection criteria were that the artisan's handcrafts must exhibit mastery of the art form, heritage techniques, and workmanship, according to the judges.

One goal of the Directory is to help preserve traditional handcrafts, a part of American culture Rosch believes is being lost in the digital age.

"Many of these skills were passed down from master to apprentice for hundreds of years, but now fewer people choose to learn and master them. If our traditional arts are lost, we have forgotten a part of who we are as Americans," Rosch said.

The August 2015 issue lists all of the artisans selected for the Directory as well as contact information for those wanting to own their work. The Directory layout features lush color photos of many of these artworks photographed at Winterthur.

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Early American Life's August 2015 "Directory of Traditional American Crafts" was photographed at Winterthur.

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Winterthur—known worldwide for its preeminent collection of American decorative arts, naturalistic gardens, and research library for the study of American art and material culture—offers a variety of tours, exhibitions, programs, and activities throughout the year. General admission includes a tour of some of the most notable spaces in the 175-room house as well as access to the Winterthur Garden and Galleries, special exhibitions, a narrated tram tour (weather permitting), the Campbell Collection of Soup Tureens, and the Enchanted Woods children's garden. \$20 adults; \$18 for students and seniors; \$5 for ages 2–11.

Museum hours

10:00 am- 5:00 pm, Tuesday- Sunday.

Winterthur, located on Route 52, six miles northwest of Wilmington, Delaware, and five miles south of U.S. Route 1, is closed on Mondays (except during Yuletide), Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day.

Winterthur is committed to accessible programming for all. For information, including special services, call 800.448.3883, 302.888.4600, or TTY 302.888.4907, or visit winterthur.org.



WINTERTHUR

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“The Directory is a source for collectors and historic museums eager to own fine, handcrafted, period-accurate objects and also a means of supporting those who perpetuate the art forms that are such an important part of our nation’s heritage,” Rosch said.

To learn more about *Early American Life*, for subscription information, or to purchase a copy, visit www.EarlyAmericanLife.com. For a copy of the article featuring Winterthur, please contact Liz Farrell at lfarrell@Winterthur.org.

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