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## **SAC MENTOR PROGRAM**

**CRAFTBOSTON • March 27-29, 2009**  
**Seaport World Trade Center • 200 Seaport Blvd., Boston, MA**

Launched in 2005, the SAC Artists Mentor Program is a coordinated effort to encourage and support emerging craft artists. The mentor program offers information and training for emerging artists in conjunction with CRAFTBOSTON. In this 3-stage program, artists go from assisting an exhibitor to participating in a cooperative booth with other mentors to presenting a solo booth. They also receive guidance in marketing, legal, insurance issues, portfolio development, pricing, selling and booth design. The 2009 mentors to share a cooperative booth are: Beth Gaertner (glass jewelry), Kristen Bassion (ceramics), and Rama Rejman (jewelry). The 2009 mentors to have solo booths are: Elizabeth Podobinski (jewelry) and Paige Wilder (ceramics).

“SAC is always on the lookout for new and creative ways to build on its mission of supporting craft artists and educating and promoting public appreciation of contemporary craft,” explains Beth Ann Gerstein, Executive Director, The Society of Arts and Crafts. The SAC Mentor Program builds on the show’s solid educational program, which includes an educational lecture series, tours for guests who are blind and visually impaired and other special interest groups, a craft bookseller, and informational booths promoting non-profit craft organizations.

**Rama Rejman** is a Studio jeweler from the Boston area who recently received her BFA in 3D Fine Arts/Metals from Massachusetts College of Art and Design. Rama makes concept based pieces that encompass family, culture and history. Past works include a “Holocaust Tattoo Bracelet” that leaves numbers impressed on the wearers arm and “Bobbin Necklace” made from her grandmother’s bobbins and thread.

**Beth Gaertner** is a self-taught glass artist and studied jewelry at the School of the Museum of Fine Art, Boston. Beth creates playful and elegant shapes with colorful glass beads that are balanced by the clean lines of sterling silver wire and tubing.

**Kirsten Bassion** studied art at Skidmore College and then received a MFA in ceramics from the School for American Crafts at Rochester Institute of Technology. Her work includes botanically inspired porcelain pottery that is wheel thrown and stamped with her own hand carved stamps.

**Page Wilder** is a ceramic artist from Western Massachusetts. Page studied ceramics at Alfred University and the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth. After completing a residency at Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts, Page has focused her interests on wood and salt firing ceramic techniques. This will be Page's second year as a Mentor with CRAFTBOSTON.

**Elizabeth Podobinski** received her Master of Fine Arts in Jewelry and Metalsmithing from the School of Art at the University of Iowa. Elizabeth creates both functional bowls and decorative jewelry. Inspired by nature's bold use of color, she works with multi-layered enameling to create depth of field in her bold colors. Elizabeth is also entering her second year with the CRAFTBOSTON Mentor Program.

For images or for further information on these artists or any of the other 200 participating artists, please contact Sarah Cunningham at [show@craftboston.org](mailto:show@craftboston.org) or (617) 266-1810 x14.

**CRAFTBOSTON Show Dates and Times**

CRAFTBOSTON will be open to the public on Friday, March 27, from 10am-7pm, Saturday, March 28, from 10am-6pm, and Sunday, March 29, from 11am-5pm. The Preview Party will be held on Thursday, March 26, from 6:00 - 9:30 p.m. Party tickets may be purchased in advance or at the door for \$175 per person. Educational lectures and guided tours are scheduled Fri.-Sun., and are included in the price of CRAFTBOSTON admission.

**CRAFTBOSTON Admission Prices**

General Admission: \$15, Senior Citizens and SAC Members: \$12, Children 12 years and under: Free. Admission tickets valid for re-admission throughout the weekend.

**CRAFTBOSTON Producer**

CRAFTBOSTON is produced by The Society of Arts and Crafts, incorporated in 1897. SAC has been at the forefront of the American craft movement fostering the development, sales, recognition and education of craft for over 100 years. The mission of The Society of Arts and Crafts is to support excellence in craft by encouraging the creation, collection, and conservation of the work of craft artists and by educating and promoting public appreciation of contemporary craft.

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