

**NEWS RELEASE**  
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**Celebrate the *spirit of the maker* at the  
78<sup>th</sup> Annual League of NH Craftsmen's Fair!  
August 6-14, 2011 Mount Sunapee Resort, Newbury, NH**

*CONCORD, NH* – The Annual League of NH Craftsmen's Fair, a nine-day celebration of fine handcraft, will be held August 6-14 at the Mount Sunapee Resort in Newbury, NH. It is the oldest, continuously running craft fair in the US, and was voted one of America's Top 10 Fairs and Festivals in 2010 by *AmericanStyle* readers because it provides fun, educational, and entertaining activities for all ages. This year's Fair features fine shopping at 200 craft booths, three indoor and outdoor fine craft exhibitions, a variety of craft making demonstrations, hands-on workshops for all ages, in-depth tours of the craft booths, informative seminars, and musical performances – including the nationally known Pousette-Dart Band on Saturday, August 13.

Every piece of fine craft on display at the Fair has a story – one that expresses the vision, inspiration, skill, and personal history of the maker. All of the makers are juried members of the League of NH Craftsmen – highly skilled artisans who have met the League's rigorous standards for quality craftsmanship.

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Fine craft collectors and enthusiasts will appreciate the diversity and quality of the craft and the opportunity to meet and speak with the makers. Those who love to shop will find distinctive and functional items for themselves or to give as gifts. Visitors can view and purchase jewelry, glass, pottery, prints, metalwork, fiber arts, woodcarvings, weaving, sculptures, furniture, and leatherwork at 200 craft booths. There are daily

educational demonstrations and workshops for all ages on the traditional methods of making fine handcraft. Glass blowing, blacksmithing, woodcarving, basket weaving, etching, and even acoustic guitar making are some of the craftmaking skills that will be on display. These demonstrations and workshops are given by juried members of the League of NH Craftsmen, as well as invited guests from the Canterbury Shaker Village, Enfield Shaker Museum, NH Art Association, NH State Council on the Arts, Granite State Woodcarvers, Granite State Wood Turners, and more than twenty different NH Craft Guilds.

### **See how fine craft is used in everyday life**

Two indoor exhibitions, *Living With Craft* and *CraftWear*, and an outdoor *Sculpture Garden* illustrate the practical and decorative use of handcrafted items. *Living With Craft* features tastefully decorated room settings furnished entirely with handmade furniture and room accessories.

*CraftWear* features unique “art-to-wear” clothing, jewelry, and accessories. The outdoor *Sculpture Garden* includes

pieces such as garden ornaments and landscape sculptures. There will also be a print exhibit called, *Starry, Starry Night*, featuring members of the League and the New Hampshire Art Association.



### **How to start a fine craft collection**

Craft collectors, and those who want to be, can learn more about investing in and caring for a fine craft collection during the Collector's Seminar on Monday, August 8 at noon. During this hour-long seminar, avid collectors and fine handmade craft experts will discuss what to look for in a collection, how to get started, and the advantages from a financial and personal perspective of investing in fine craft.

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### **In-depth tours of the craft booths and exhibitions**

For those who are interested in how a particular type of craft is made, a League member will take fairgoers on a 45-minute tour of the craft booths and exhibitions, providing detailed commentary on the techniques and artistry that go into making that craft. Fairgoers will gain a greater appreciation for the quality and distinction of fine handcrafted items as well as the standards the League uses to determine juried membership. Held daily at 3 pm, the tours will cover wood, prints, glass, metal, fiber, and clay.

### **Special musical performance by the Pousette-Dart Band**

Award-winning music veteran Jon Pousette-Dart and his Pousette-Dart Band will be performing at the Fair on Saturday, August 13. Since their breakout success in the 1970s, the band has been making music that is timeless and universal, ranging from heartfelt ballads to infectious, upbeat pop songs.



In addition to the Pousette-Dart Band, other musical performances will be part of the lively atmosphere of the Fair. Appearing daily in the Performing Arts Tent are a variety of blues, rock, jazz, Celtic, and pop singers and musicians.

### **Fair Information**

The lead sponsor for the 78<sup>th</sup> Annual League of NH Craftsmen's Fair is The Duprey Companies. The Fair is open from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm daily, rain or shine, from August 6-14. Admission is \$10 for adults; \$8 for seniors, students, active duty military (with ID), and groups of 20 or more. Admission is free for children 12 and under. A ticket includes admission to all exhibitions, demonstrations, and musical performances as well as a second day free return to the Fair.

Parking is free and childcare is available on site at \$3 per hour. Picnic areas, as well as a food tent, indoor cafeterias, and an outdoor Garden Café (serving adult beverages) are open daily. No pets are permitted on the fairgrounds or left in cars in the parking lots.

### **Early Discount Tickets**

Having tickets in advance is a great way to avoid the long ticket lines at the gate. Visitors who purchase their tickets on the League's website, [www.nhcrafts.org](http://www.nhcrafts.org), will receive a \$1 discount, plus no convenience fee. This discount will be offered until August 5. Discounted ticket purchases are also available at the Lake Sunapee Area Chamber of Commerce through August 5.

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### **About the League of NH Craftsmen**

The League of NH Craftsmen is a non-profit, craft education organization. Its mission is to encourage, nurture and promote the creation, use and preservation of fine contemporary and traditional craft through the inspiration and education of artists and the broader community. The League represents the *signature of excellence* in fine craft, through the work of its juried members, and its rigorous standards for self expression, vision, and quality craftsmanship.



The League of NH Craftsmen is supported in part by grants from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation.



For more information about the Fair, or the League of NH Craftsmen, call 603-224-3375, email [nhleague@nhcrafts.org](mailto:nhleague@nhcrafts.org), or visit the League's website at [www.nhcrafts.org](http://www.nhcrafts.org). You can also find the League of NH Craftsmen, the Annual Craftsmen's Fair, and each of the League's eight retail galleries on Facebook.

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