

NEWS RELEASE

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***Whispers of Spring* Selected as the League of NH Craftsmen's 2014 Annual Ornament**

CONCORD, NH – The League of NH Craftsmen's annual ornament for 2014 is *Whispers of Spring*, a hand-formed cast pewter birch branch made by Kristine Lane and Paulette Werger, both juried in metal by the League. Lane and Werger created the ornament to pay homage to the official state tree of New Hampshire. The white birch is one of the first trees to



come into leaf, celebrating the emergence of spring. It has a celery-colored ribbon for hanging on a tree or wreath. *Whispers of Spring* ornaments are sold exclusively by the League of NH Craftsmen Fine Craft Galleries (*see locations at end of release*), the League's online store (www.nhcrafts.org) and at the League of NH Craftsmen's Fair, August 2-10, 2014. Each ornament is numbered as one of a limited edition and is signed by the artists. The ornament comes beautifully gift-boxed and sells for \$23.

This is the second annual ornament that Lane and Werger have collaborated on; their first was the 2002 Annual Ornament, *Snow Crystal*. They have been working together collaboratively since 1998 creating one of kind jewelry. "Paulette and I both draw inspiration from the botanical world, so *Whispers of Spring* represents our shared aesthetic," said Kristine.

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About the Makers

Kristine Lane (Andover, NH) creates metal jewelry that communicates her passion for the graceful botanical forms found in nature. She has been working as a studio jeweler for more than 20 years. “It is still as exciting today as the day I started,” said Kristine. “Honing skills and discovering and developing new techniques keep my creative senses alive and constantly challenged.”

She has been engaged in art since her first watercolor lesson at age four. She studied painting, drawing, and sculpture at Boston University’s two-year Fine Art Core Program, and then discovered a connection to metalsmithing while pursuing a bachelor of fine arts degree in jewelry design at Virginia Commonwealth University (Richmond, VA). “I was hooked instantly to the inherent strength of metal and the associated challenges of working and manipulating it to create delicate forms,” said Kristine.

She enjoys every aspect of creating a piece of jewelry, from design stage to fabrication. “However, there is no greater gratification in metalsmithing than being told that one of my designs has become a client’s favorite piece of jewelry,” she added.

Paulette Werger (Hanover, NH) makes jewelry, vessels, and flatware that draw upon botanical imagery, mythology, and folk tales. “Form, texture, and pattern borrowed from my garden are the basis for the collage-like surfaces and simple volumes in my metalwork,” said Paulette. Her neckpieces, rings, earrings and beads combine a variety of materials including gold, silver, pewter, hand cut gems and pearls.

Paulette is originally from rural upstate New York. Her great grandfather was a painter trained in the Hudson River School, who supported a family of ten from his artwork. “Growing up, I was surrounded by my great grandfather’s paintings and the landscape that had inspired him. I spent many hours outdoors rambling through fields and woods, building tree forts and drawing pictures,” said Paulette. “My family was not surprised when I was inclined toward art and, because of my great grandfather’s example, very supportive. The importance of the natural world has persisted in the narrative of my work.”

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Paulette received her B.S. in painting and sculpture from the College of Saint Rose and Skidmore College in NY, and her M.F.A. in Art Metal from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She exhibits and sells her work both nationally and internationally, and teaches workshops in jewelry making and metalsmithing techniques. She is a founding member of Metalpeople Studio in Madison, WI. Her current studio, Metalpeople East, is located in Lebanon, NH. She serves on the Boards of Trustees for the Society of Arts and Crafts in Boston, MA and for the Alliance for the Visual Arts in Lebanon, NH.

About the Annual Ornament

The League's annual ornament selection, now in its 27th year, is open to all juried League craftspeople. The ornament is selected by the managers of the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen Fine Craft Galleries, located in Center Sandwich, Concord, Hanover, Littleton, Meredith, Nashua, and North Conway. Major credit cards are accepted for ordering the ornament by telephone from any gallery.

League of NH Craftsmen Fine Craft Galleries:

Center Sandwich, 32 Main St., 603-284-6831

Concord, 36 North Main St., 603-228-8171

Hanover, 13 Lebanon St., 603-643-5050

Littleton, 81 Main Street, 603-444-1099

Meredith, 279 Daniel Webster Hwy., Rte. 3, 603-279-7920

Nashua, 98 Main St., 603-595-8233

North Conway, 2526 White Mountain Hwy., Rte. 16/302, 603-356-2441

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.

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The League of NH Craftsmen is supported in part by grants from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information about the Annual Ornament or the League of NH Craftsmen, call 603-224-3375, email nhleague@nhcrafts.org, or visit the League's website at www.nhcrafts.org.

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