

NEWS RELEASE

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For release May 10, 2016 Photos available via email

***Pitter Patter* Selected as the
League of NH Craftsmen's 2016 Annual Ornament**

CONCORD, NH – It may be spring, but it is never too early to be thinking about shopping for the holidays. A great year-round gift and collectible item is the League of NH Craftsmen's Annual Ornament. This year's ornament is *Pitter Patter*, a whimsical Rhodium-plated metal elf boot with etched and silkscreened details. Sussy-Rose Shields, juried in metal by the League in 1988, created this ornament to represent the elfin people that make and deliver gifts, create mischief, and bring joy. *Pitter Patter* 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), at the League headquarters on 49 South Main Street in Concord, and at the Annual League of NH Craftsmen's Fair, August 6-14, 2016. Each ornament is numbered as one of a limited edition and is signed by the artist. The ornament comes beautifully gift-boxed and sells for \$25. *Pitter Patter* is the League's 29th Annual Ornament.



Pitter Patter, 2016 League of NH Craftsmen Ornament (Photo by Nathan Ekis Photography)

About the Maker: Sussy-Rose Shields

Sussy-Rose Shields creates metal art from her studio in Wilton. "Metal is my obsession. I relish the challenge of applying pattern and form to sheet and wire to create jewelry that speaks to

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the heart and soul of an individual,” says Sussy. “Often the resulting finished piece is quite different than the idea I begin with, as the metal and the spirit guide the process.”

Born in Oklahoma City, OK, Sussy was the child of active-duty US Air Force personnel and lived in many different places, attending 13 schools during her childhood. While she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Housing and Interior Design from Oklahoma State University, it was metals and jewelry making that fascinated her. She taught herself how to make jewelry, and has been doing just that since 1975. She worked as a bench jeweler in an Oklahoma jewelry store for a couple of years, and then started her own business making custom design jewelry. She honed her techniques by taking several professional development workshops at Penland School of Crafts in North Carolina, and the Arrowmont Craft Center and Appalachia Center for Fine Craft, both in Tennessee. She also taught jewelry making at an art center in Stillwater (OK) and at Oklahoma State University.

In 1987, Sussy moved to New Hampshire, and taught jewelry making for a high school career program in Wilton and at the Sharon Arts Center. In 2000, she earned a Master’s Degree in Environmental Education from Antioch New England Graduate School in Keene, focusing on sustainable environmental education and Native American studies, which added inspiration to her craft.

Sussy became a juried member of the League in 1988, and was involved in organizing the original CraftWear exhibition and The Shop At the Fair at the Annual Craftsmen’s Fair. She continues to teach jewelry making to teens and adults, and provides mentoring to other craftspeople.

About the Annual Ornament

The League’s annual ornament is selected by the managers of the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen Fine Craft Galleries, located in Center Sandwich, Concord, Hanover, Hooksett, Littleton, Meredith, Nashua, and North Conway. Major credit cards are accepted for ordering the ornament by telephone from any gallery.

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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

Hooksett, I-93 Northbound Rest Area, 530 West River Rd., 603-210-5181

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.

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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