

LAKE ZURICH COURIER

Illinois 2013/08/16 Expo celebrates fine art of handmade crafts



Some of the most skilled craftspeople in the country will exhibit their work at the 29th Annual American Craft Exposition.

“We had over 700 applications this year for 165 spots,” said Leslie Sevcik of Evanston, co-chair with Dana Turban of Northfield. The event runs Thursday-Sunday at the Henry Crown Sports Pavilion in Evanston.

Participants were selected through a rigorous process. “We have a panel of jurors, including experts in different craft areas and two former show directors,” Sevcik related. “They review digital slides anonymously. We have a different panel of jurors every years so we have a fresh show every year.”

The exposition is run by the Auxiliary of NorthShore University HealthSystem as a benefit. “This year, we are raising money for an ovarian cancer research project,” Sevcik reported. “While we’re doing that, we all really love the artists and their work and want to bring that work to the public and help people see the beautiful things that are still made by hand here in America.”

Antoinette Badenhorst of Lincolnshire, who works in porcelain, is exhibiting in the American Craft Exposition for the first time.

Badenhorst, who was born in Johannesburg, South Africa and raised in Namibia in Southern Africa, moved to the United States with her husband and three daughters in 1999. Her exquisite pieces have been exhibited across this country as well as in South Africa.

Badenhorst indicated that her pieces are inspired by movement. “It’s a process that evolved over many, many years,” she said. She noted that when she lived in South Africa and Namibia, “I became aware of movement — in the river bed when the water comes down, the stepping and stomping of feet, galloping giraffes.” She continued to be motivated by movement in the United States — by the waters in Mississippi, where the family first lived, and then by the activity in Chicago.

Nature is a strong influence, with Badenhorst defining people as part of nature.