**Florida CraftArt,** 501 Central Ave., St. Petersburg, FL 33701

727-821-7391 FloridaCraftArt.org

Contact: Katie Deits, Executive Director, Katie@FloridaCraftArt.org

For Immediate Release July 1, 2021

**Florida CraftArt presents:**

***“Oh, the places we can go!” exhibition of fine craft***

**Exhibition Dates: July 9-August 28, 2021**

**Opening Reception: July 9, 6 p.m.**

***“Oh, the places we can go!”***is a juried exhibition of handmade fine crafts where artists have created imaginative pieces inspired by places they’ve been or would like to go. From around the state, 37 artists created more than 80 pieces in ceramics, fiber, glass, metal and wood. At the opening and awards reception on Friday, July 9 at 6 p.m., people will have the opportunity to meet many of the talented artists and the show’s **judge, Desmond Clark** of St. Cate Fine Art.

Community programming includes textile artist Elizabeth Neily in costume telling the story of travel clothing from 1528 to today, an art-inspired ekphrastic performance by writers with Keep St. Pete Lit, and “Mad Traveler” author Dave Seminara revealing the pleasures and perils of wanderlust.

Artist **Alicia Diem** sculpted a Louis Vuitton suitcase in the shape of a fish with wheels. She fashioned it from clay, leather and gold luster glaze. The one-of-a-kind 10-inch-high artwork is priced at $890.

“Wufulla Tree Purple” is a blown borosilicate glass piece by St. Petersburg artist **Jack Adlen.** It is 12” high and priced at $840. He says, “My goal is to transport the viewer into another, glassy world, even for only a moment, where anything is possible -- healing for our oceans, trees and landscapes that inspire and transport, and a sustainable world where materials are reused, transformed and reimagined.”

**Joyce Curvin** of Palm Harbor uses recycled materials in her entertaining artwork. She says, “My piece in the exhibition is called “Travelin' Trixie” and she moves when the handle is cranked. It is a traditional papier-mâché puppet with a modern theme. She celebrates the lesson that so many have learned from the pandemic: working from home can mean working wherever you make your home on any given day. Trixie can do what she wants, dress the way she wants, live the way she wants....if she has Wi-Fi.” (Watch the video of the animated sculpture.)

**Karen Woods,** of Tarpon Springs, is both an award-winning basketry artist and polymer-clay jewelry maker who created kimono-inspired necklaces for the exhibition. She says, “In 2009, I had the opportunity to travel to Japan with other weaving instructors to study bamboo basketry techniques. I brought along an empty suitcase in anticipation of filling it with baskets, but instead I carried home many vintage shibori-dyed kimonos.”

“This exhibition’s programs are fascinating from artistic, intellectual and historical levels. Also, many of our programs are recorded on our website for people to watch,” says Florida CraftArt’s Board President Tyler Jones. “As engaging the community is part of Florida CraftArt’s mission, the public is invited to attend the exhibition and programming free of charge which is made possible with support from the exhibition’s sponsor Elizabeth Reilinger, along with David and Becky Ramsey, Regions Bank, the City of St. Petersburg, and Florida’s Division of Arts & Culture.”

The show runs through August 28 when the People’s Choice Award will be presented. People can vote for their favorite work of art in the Florida CraftArt Exhibition Gallery and on Facebook.

Florida CraftArt is located at 501 Central Avenue in St. Petersburg. Gallery hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. For more information, visit [www.FloridaCraftArt.org](http://www.FloridaCraftArt.org) or call (727) 821-7391. Fine craft art is presented in its 2,500-square-foot retail gallery and curated exhibitions are featured in its adjacent exhibition gallery. Florida CraftArt is a nonprofit organization founded in 1951 and headquartered in St. Petersburg. Its mission is to grow the statewide creative economy by engaging the community and advancing Florida’s fine craft artists and their work. Florida CraftArt is the *only* statewide organization offering artists a platform to show and sell their work.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**

**Friday, July 9, 6 p.m.** Meet the artists and judge Desmond Clark at the opening reception.

**Saturday, July 17, 1 to 3 p.m.** Writing class inspired by the exhibition with Keep St. Pete Lit $15. Register on KeepStPeteLit.org. Ekphrastic writing from the class will be performed on August 5.

**Saturday, July 31, 2 p.m.** Textile artist Elizabeth Neily tells the story of travel clothing from 1528 to today.

**Saturday, August 14, 5-9 p.m.** Second Saturday ArtWalk in the Gallery. Visit ArtLofts on our second floor.

**Thursday, August 5, 6 p.m.** Ekphrastic performance by writers who share stories inspired by the art.

**Tuesday, August 17, 6 p.m.** “Mad Traveler” author Dave Seminara talks about the pleasures and perils of wanderlust.

**CUTLINES (More images of work available on request.)**

**FCA Alden WufullaTreePurple\_Full.jpg**“Wufulla Tree Purple” is a blown borosilicate glass piece by St. Petersburg artist Jack Adlen. It is 12” high and priced at $840.

**FCA Curvin\_Travelin Trixie\_Full.jpg**Joyce Curvin’s “Traveling Trixie” wall sculpture is made of traditional papier-mâché and recycled objects.

**AVAILABLE ON REQUEST: FCA Curvin Traveling Trixie Video.mov**Watch “Traveling Trixie” prance her way through the world of travel.

**FCA Diem Travel West.jpg
Alicia Diem** sculpted this Louis Vuitton suitcase in the shape of a fish with wheels. She fashioned it from clay, leather and gold luster glaze. The one-of-a-kind 10-inch-high artwork is priced at $890.

**FCA Griegs Going for a ride. jpg**
Sarasota artist Sue Grigg’s set of ceramic characters on this trolley have individual and fun personalities. “Going for a ride” is 9” x 18” x 2.5” and is priced at $500.

**FCA Hess Mona has a secret.jpg**“Mona has a secret” by ArtLofts artist Sue Hess was create using mixed media, such as collage, and encaustic, a hot-wax process. It is 12”x9” and is $195.

**FCA Woods Kimono.jpg**Karen Woods used polymer clay and acrylic paint to make a necklace inspired by Japanese kimonos. It is $50.

**FCA Neily as\_Maria Velasquez.jpg**On Saturday, July 31, at 2 p.m., textile artist Elizabeth Neily in costume will tell the story of travel clothing from 1528 to today.

**Mad Travelers Book by Dave Seminara.jpg**On Tuesday, August 17, 6 p.m. “Mad Traveler” author Dave Seminara will reveal the pleasures and perils of wanderlust**.**

**ARTISTS IN THE FLORIDA CRAFTART “Oh, the places you can go” EXHIBITION**

Jack Alden, St. Petersburg

Dan Alexander, St. Petersburg

Gerri Aurre, Jupiter

Karen Brown, Tampa

Joan Carew, Coral Springs

Joyce Curvin, Palm Harbor

Terry Demaline, St. Petersburg

Alicia Diem, St. Petersburg

Eric Folsom, Gulfport

Peggy Gallaher, Lakeland

Sue Allen Griggs, Sarasota

Susan Hess, St. Petersburg

Diana Hirschhorn, Bradenton

Kristin Holeman, Ft. Lauderdale

Mary Jenkins, Lake Mary

Amy Kluth, St. Petersburg

Leeann Kroetsch, Tampa

Betsy Lester, St. Petersburg

Jill Lindsay, Port Charlotte

Vadim Malkin, Orlando

Eileen Marquez, St. Petersburg

Victoria Rose Martin, Lake Worth

Joyce McAdams, Edgewater

Melissa Menzer, Spring Hill

Natty Moss Bond, St. Petersburg

Elizabeth Neily, Gulfport

Suzy Pease, Gulfport

Nick Reale, St. Petersburg

Jan Richardson, St. Petersburg

Maria Saraceno, St. Petersburg

Jeryldine Saville, St. Petersburg

Ellen Simon, Parrish

Jennifer Sutton Roe, Altamonte Springs

Kim Tatlick, St. Petersburg

Lorraine Turner, Clearwater

James Woodfield, St. Petersburg

Karen Woods, Tarpon Springs