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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

News from Touchstone Center for Crafts

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“MAKERS GATHER TOGETHER”

Farmington, PA —

You won't want to miss Touchstone Center for Craft's first Maker's Symposium Weekend June 1–3, 2018, where makers gather together for a weekend of demonstrations, presentations and networking. This year's 5th annual Alchemist Picnic, a metalsmithing retreat, is merging with three other craft disciplines to bring a new and exciting dynamic to the event. A great opportunity for metal, ceramic, glass, and mosaic artists and makers from the mid-Atlantic region and beyond to come together to learn, be inspired and network. One of the most exciting outcomes of the immersive craft experience, like those offered at Touchstone, is the blending of craft disciplines. Exploration and collaboration culminates from the buzz of conversations in the classroom and around the bonfire. Collaborations and life-long creative relationships often emerge. Think of the possibilities!

Alchemist Picnic at Touchstone Center for Crafts will once again be hosted by noted metalsmiths Wayne Werner and Jim Bové. This year's Maker's Symposium Weekend itinerary includes a keynote presentation by artist Rachel Rearick. Rachel will be speaking on the topic of 'Versatility of Craft: Opportunities and Materials,' encouraging artists to think outside of functionality and form to consider how materials may apply outside of the craft field - opening up a world of opportunity. Beyond her career as a maker, Rachel currently serves as the Arts and Cultural Manager for Allegheny County Airport where she manages the 'Art in the Airport' and the 'Creating a Sense of Place' programs.

Other artists offering presentations and demonstrations throughout the weekend include metalsmiths, Jim Bové, Cyd Rowley, and Michael Brehl. Kevin Rohde, Yoko Sekino Bové, and Julia Weber will be offering demonstrations in ceramics. Mosaic and glass presenters will be announced at a later date. Admission includes great food, evening bonfires (weather permitting) & the return of midnight fireside casting with Richard Hoff. All makers, artists, craftspeople, arts organizations, guilds, schools and universities are invited to this one-of-a-kind event! A special discount is being offered to students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Please check our website at touchstonecrafts.org or call 724-329-1370 for up-to-date information.

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Touchstone Center for Crafts is situated in the Laurel Highlands region of Southwestern Pennsylvania about 70 miles from Pittsburgh. Now enjoying its 46th year, the craft school offers weekend and weeklong workshops in traditional and emerging craft forms, along with events, symposiums, and educational programming. Touchstone recruits some of the best artists in the country to teach beginning and experienced artists a broad selection of traditional and contemporary interpretations of: blacksmithing, ceramics, glass, metals & jewelry, mosaics, painting, drawing, printmaking, fiber & paper arts, and more! Touchstone's unique 150-acre wooded campus features art studios; the Blaney Lodge housing the Kinard library and art galleries; a variety of overnight accommodations, including cabins and dormitories; as well as many options for hosting private events. Learn more about Touchstone Center for Crafts and view the 2018 Workshop Schedule at www.touchstonecrafts.org.

For information about Touchstone Center for Crafts, email info@touchstonecrafts.org or call 724.329.1370.

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