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## Artist quotes

**“To master a craft does not make one a master. Innovation and creativity must be a part of the endeavor.”** Gary Noffke, Metals, Farmington, GA

**“If I get the piece to act as art and also to function, it is twice as good.”** Bonnie Seeman, Clay, Coral Gables, FL

**“Anyone who has taken dancing lessons remembers having to count each step. Mastery is like not having to think about your feet.”** Craig Nutt, Wood, Kingston Springs, TN

**“Mastery is the ability to materialize dreams...to realize one’s vision, concepts and ideas so that they are recognizable to others.”** Mark Peiser, Glass, Penland, NC

**”There is nothing about the pots that are not Southern. They are Southern in their function, southern in their glazes and their appearance.”** Nathaniel Hewell, Clay/Pottery, Gillsville, GA

Mastery is **“A nearly unlimited willingness to stay with a problem until it is solved. It is a question of grabbing hold and not letting go.”** Steve Miller, Books/Fiber, Tuscaloosa, AL

**I open myself up and listen to the metal to see what it is telling me, because then the metal teaches me how it needs to be worked.”** Enrique Vega, Metals, Apex, NC

**“My daddy would always say, no matter what was going on in life, Mardi Gras Day, you got to be in the feathers.”** Darryl Montana, Fiber/Textile, Kenner, LA

**“My art has evolved directly from my own personal search for connection, for roots, for a sense of belonging...”** Gwendolyn Magee, Fiber, Jackson, MS

**“We all have a link to the past, we can’t ignore it. I can look at what the ancients did when they made murrini a thousand years ago and see that they were directed by their material to solve problems and create imagery in the same way that I am.”** Richard Ritter, Glass, Bakersville, NC

**“I just wouldn’t want to live nowhere else. To me, this is where it’s at”** Minnie Adkins, Wood/Carving, Isonsville, KY

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**“I actually get excited when I see honeysuckle draped fences and layers of kudzu covering the trees. Mother Nature never sleeps.”** Clay Burnette, Fiber, Columbia, SC

**“My hands are not the creator of my work, but rather the facilitator of an interaction between materials, ideas, and influences..... At that moment, if I am truly present, I see beyond my ideas and allow influences to wash through me, giving form to thoughts I was not even aware of. This is the creative process I live for.”** Kimberly Sotelo, Wood, Opelika, AL

**“Being a Southern woman, I wanted my work to be well crafted and well respected by traditional ironsmiths. I was determined to hang in there with the craft so that no one could find fault with the subject.”** Elizabeth Brim, Metals, Penland, NC

**“To teach is to learn twice. Creative energy is a constant loop.”** Kristy Higby, Book Arts, Alexander, NC

**“All different kinds of things are coming to the surface from my own history and new experiences. I am accepting and using it all.”** Glen Kaufman, Fiber, Athens, GA

**“I teach a lot of different people and I’ve liked seeing that they’ve gone out and found their own way and passed on what they learned from me.”** Cynthia Bringle, Clay, Penland, NC

**“I grew up in a religious family and was taught to share. I do not hold back anything. Groups come down to my studio to see the tools and methods I use. The studio is always open to everyone.”** Gene Koss, Glass, New Orleans, LA

**“I see myself as an explorer. I am on a personal exploration looking for new forms and new details.”** Richard Prisco, Wood, Savannah, GA

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