



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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New Fall Exhibit Opens at the Mercer Museum

Forging a Link: Metalsmiths Respond to the Mercer Collection

DOYLESTOWN, Pa. – Experience the Mercer Museum’s historic artifacts in a new light this fall in the new contemporary exhibit opening entitled *Forging a Link: Metalsmiths Respond to the Mercer Collection*. The new exhibit opens on Saturday, September 28, 2019 and runs through Sunday, January 5, 2020, and will be located within the entire core of the Mercer Museum’s historic castle. It provides a new way for guests to experience the Mercer Museum’s historic artifacts through contemporary art directly inspired by the museum’s collections.

The exhibit is a collaborative partnership between the Mercer Museum and guest curator Cappy Counard, Professor of Metals and Jewelry at Edinboro University, and highlights the work of twenty-three blacksmiths, metalsmiths and jewelers, who represent a diverse cross section of their fields. These artists visited the Mercer Museum in 2018 and the original artwork they produced after their visit was an artistic response to the museum’s historic collection. These new works of art are integrated into the museum’s permanent exhibits and displayed alongside the artifacts that inspired them.

Counard looked to engage a wide variety of artists to create pieces for *Forging a Link: Metalsmiths Respond to the Mercer Collection*. She was interested in finding artists who were at different points in their career and who exemplified distinct approaches to their fields. “All the artists were chosen because I respect their work for being thoughtful and thought-provoking, as well as remarkably well crafted,” said Counard. “My intention was that patrons of the museum

would gain a broader understanding of the diversity of the contemporary metals field while also being able to view Mercer’s collection with fresh references and impressions.”

Vice President of Collections and Interpretation Cory Amsler worked alongside Counard from the beginning to breathe life into the exhibit. “We are thrilled to feature contemporary works of art in the heart of the Mercer Museum, and encourage our guests to view Henry Mercer’s collection from a new perspective. Mercer’s original intent was to encourage visitors to admire the work of human hands, and this exhibit brings Mercer’s vision to contemporary art and craft.”

The twenty-three participating artists are Sue Amendolara, Lynn Batchelder, Erica Bello, Melanie Bilenker, Cappy Counard, Maria Eife, Michael Gayk, Ian Henderson, Warren Holzman, Jera Lodge, Becky McDonah, Tedd McDonah, Myra Mimplitsch-Gray, Dan Neville, Nash Quinn, Patrick J. Quinn, Stephen Reynolds, Mike Rossi, Courtney Starrett, Katja Toporski, Pamela J. Wallace, Stacey Lee Webber and Adam Whitney.

The Mercer Museum will host a diverse range of community programs inspired by the new exhibit including artist lectures, curator talks, kids’ crafting days and more. A full schedule is available at mercermuseum.org.

The new exhibit *Forging a Link: Metalsmiths Respond to the Mercer Collection* is sponsored by The Morel Family Foundation, Dontech, Penn Color, Tom Thomas, Molly Lowell and Rich Duvall.

Admission to the exhibit is included with general museum admission. The Mercer Museum is open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Sunday 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. For pricing and additional information, please visit mercermuseum.org.

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About the Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle

Located in Doylestown, Bucks County, PA, the Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle are historic castles celebrating the legacy of Henry Chapman Mercer (1856-1930), American archaeologist, anthropologist, ceramicist and scholar. Both sites are operated by the Bucks County Historical Society.

The Mercer Museum, one of Bucks County's premier cultural attractions and a Smithsonian affiliate, features both local and national seasonal exhibits as well as a core museum collection of over 50,000 pre-Industrial tools. This permanent collection offers visitors a unique window into pre-Industrial America through sixty different crafts and trades, and is one of the world's most comprehensive portraits of American material culture. The museum also features a research library that is a center for local history related to Bucks County and the surrounding region, with its roots dating back to the founding of the Bucks County Historical Society in 1880.

The Mercer Museum is located at 84 South Pine Street in Doylestown, PA and is open year-round. For up-to-date schedule and admission information, please visit mercermuseum.org or call 215-345-0210.

Fonthill Castle was built between 1908-1912, and was the home to Henry Chapman Mercer. Mercer built Fonthill Castle as his home and as a showplace for his collection of tiles and prints. The castle serves as an early example of reinforced concrete and features forty-four rooms, over two hundred windows, and eighteen fireplaces. Fonthill Castle's interior features Mercer's renowned, hand crafted ceramic tiles designed at the height of the Arts and Crafts movement.

Fonthill Castle is located at 525 East Court Street, Doylestown, PA and is open for guided one-hour tours. Reservations are not taken in advance, and tours are booked at our Welcome Center each day, on a first-come, first-served basis.

For additional information and to schedule interviews with exhibit curators, please contact:

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