



One Hundred Artists Commemorate Two Hundred Years

XEROX

The success of the industrial revolution validated the precepts of our founding fathers. It has unified and stabilized this nation throughout its development, satisfying the basic material requirements for most of its people.

In the last third of the 19th Century emerged an industrial machine that enabled the American people to prosper as no people had before. Our land of future drew over 20 million immigrants from all parts of the world, adding a supporting dimension to our seemingly limitless natural resources. Immigrant craftsmen adapted their traditional skills to the requirements of our mechanical processes and the American market place. The energy and vitality of our growing nation created an America that had little time or interest in anything that could not be mass produced. Good design and aesthetic integrity took a back seat to the exciting and new development in manufacturing techniques, using traditional styles, forms and motifs rather than establishing an art school of design and form commensurate to this inventive period. There were a few American designers and theorists during the later period of the 19th Century that followed the teachings of the English reformers William Morris, Charles Eastlake and John Ruskin. These moralists enjoyed wide popularity in this country and were influential in the establishment of an arts and crafts revival that spread across the nation. This band of individualists were hopeful that sound industrial foresight would establish a society that would use industrialization as a means to an end, eliminating the struggles of daily survival, and encouraging an expanded society of individual and creative integrity. It is now 1976, and the arts and crafts movements of the last 100 years have come and gone, only to be revitalized to what we are now experiencing as the most energetic art movement in our history. The people of this movement are still asking the same questions to the same problems that existed 100 years ago. They are also coming up with the same answers. Is it now time to listen?

"100 Artists Commemorate 200 Years" was organized by the Fairtree Fine Crafts Institute. It selected the artists from among those it has represented. It is an interpretive exhibition of reflection as well as celebration. "100 Artists" is a "token" to represent the thousands of fine artist/craftsmen in America today. Also to be acknowledged are thousands of craftsmen who are less concerned with using their fine skills to a conceptual end—but instead, are devoted to the creation of functional works of beauty, integrity and aesthetic substance.

It is with gratitude that this exhibition is dedicated to the crafts movement in America.

We thank Xerox Corporation for supporting this exhibit, and we especially acknowledge our founder, Betty Warner Sheinbaum, for her vision of enriching America through the encouragement of fine crafts.

Stan Reifel
Executive Director
Fairtree Fine Crafts Institute

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U.S. Dependence on
Overseas Oil (1960-1990)
Fred Abrams

