The General Society of Mechanics & Tradesmen of the City of New York
Founded 1785

Artisan Lecture Series
Fall 2011 Through Spring 2012

The General Society pays tribute to the Art of Craftsmanship...

By Hammer and Hand All Arts Do Stand
ARTISAN LECTURE SERIES FALL 2011 Through SPRING 2012
AT THE GENERAL SOCIETY LIBRARY

Please join The General Society as we continue to pay tribute to the art of craftsmanship. The Society will feature seven internationally-celebrated artisans who will talk about the intricacies of their specialized crafts. The Artisan Lecture Series promotes the work and art of skilled craftsmen to assist in ensuring their unique knowledge is understood and carried forth for future generations.

Curated by General Society member, Jean Wiart, famous for his many contributions to ornamental metalwork, the series will feature:

Tuesday, October 11 – Pierre Finkelstein, Trompe L’oeil Painting Artisan
Tuesday, November 8 – Vanessa Hoheb, Master Sculpture Enlarger and Modeling Artisan
Tuesday, January 10 – William Gold, Bronze Foundry Artisan
Tuesday, February 7 – Jean-Paul Viollet, Fine Cabinetry Artisan
Tuesday, March 13 – Rabbit Goody, Master Weaver Artisan
Tuesday, April 10 – Miriam Ellner, Verre Eglomisé Artisan
Tuesday, May 8 – Gregory Muller, Master Stone Mosaic Artisan

Lectures begin at 6:00 P.M. in the General Society Library
20 West 44th Street (Between 5th and 6th Avenue)
Artisan Reception to follow.

Advance registration is suggested.
$15 General admission, $10 General Society members, $5 Students
$75 for Full Subscription

To register, please contact the General Society at:
212.840.1840 prompt 2
E-mail: info@generalsociety.org

For Sponsorship Opportunities please contact Carol Hoenig: carol.hoenig@generalsociety.org
The Artisan Lecture Series

A Message from the Curator

The art of craftsmanship and the skill of craftsmen have always been celebrated and rewarded over the centuries. At the General Society, we want to assure that this special mastery for creating beautiful objects will survive down through the years and continue to be rewarded and prized.

In 1785 twenty-two artisans, tradesmen and craftsmen gathered together, to found the General Society in the dark economic days in New York City, following the American Revolution. They pledged to each other that their widows and orphans would be cared for and that, collectively, they would work to improve their business opportunities in the city. These craftsmen: carpenters, saddlers, tailors, and silversmiths, among others, were the artisans of their day.

The five internationally-known artisans we featured in our first artisan series are all engaged in creating products and using skills valued through the centuries. They are presented on the following pages, along with a brief description of their crafts in the hopes of inspiring other artisans to share with us the interesting and inspiring elements of their work.

We are committed to these highly successful lectures, and will be continuing the theme of artisanship and craftsmanship to raise the public consciousness that even a hundred years into the machine age, it is still the detailed, focused work of highly trained and passionate craftsmen, their art adapted to functional use that contributes to our quality of life.

Our 2011-2012 lecture series is now being planned. We will be presenting the work of seven artisans with diverse skills who will take our audience behind the scenes of their workrooms and ateliers to demonstrate the intricacies of their crafts. They will describe the tools they use and the procedures followed in their work to produce many different beautiful objects.

I invite you to come, discover, support and share my enthusiasm for superb manual trades.

About the Curator

Jean Wiart is a master metal worker whose work continues the ancient European and American tradition of fine ornamental metalwork. He was born in France and served his apprenticeship there in his family’s workshop. Mr. Wiart joined the Les Metalliers Champenois in Rheims in 1978 where he worked on landmark restoration projects such as the ironwork at the Chateau de Versailles and the ornate gates on the Place Stanislas in Nancy. He was co-head of the team that made the torch and flame for the Statue of Liberty restoration. A short distance from New York City, in Paterson, New Jersey, Mr. Wiart works daily with an expert team of artisans creating museum quality metalwork for clients of the world’s most distinguished architects and interior designers. His company is equipped with modern machinery and old age hand tools, as well as hot forging gas and coal furnaces and anvils. Jean is an expert in repoussé – which produces the delicate, time consuming rosettes, water and acanthus leaves that constitute the trademarks of outstanding metalwork. For a broader view of Mr. Wiart's work, see www.L-M-C.com.
ARTISANS FEATURED IN SPRING 2011 LECTURE SERIES

The first group of talented Artisans in our lecture series are featured on the following pages. These individuals all have The General Society’s deep appreciation for their willingness to share the mysteries of their crafts, described in fascinating details, for our audiences.

Superb Craftsmanship has always been appreciated, dating back to medieval times when many new skills originated. Procedures have been refined and embellished over the years and new tools developed, but the original concept of beautiful, individually produced items has never lost its appeal.

THIS FALL 2011 THROUGH SPRING 2012

For the Fall, 2011/Spring, 2012 lectures, seven master artisans will present their work. We hope you will share our pleasure in learning more about the work of these craftsmen and will support this series whose aim is to promote the work and art of skilled craftsmen and to assist in ensuring their unique knowledge is understood and carried forth for generations to come.

For information about the Fall, 2011/Spring, 2012 Artisan Lecture Series, and sponsorship opportunities, please contact Carol Hoenig at carol.hoenig@generalsociety.org and visit our website at www.generalsociety.org

Thank you.
client include all of the major gun manufacturers, and his work has been widely
instruments, silver plate, high-end products, and antique furniture restoration. His
for connoisseurs. His work also includes monograms, knives, watches, jewelry, musical
colored gold, and platinum are often inlayed in his work. Mr. Gournet engraves guns
detail -- only the hardness of the metal determines the extent of the detail. Pure gold,
animals, fantastic landscapes, farms, nudes and fantasy. His work is outstanding in its
chemicals or lasers are used. Internationally known, his work includes engraving of
bulino
pushed graver and hammer and chisel for the intricate Italian.

Geoffroy Gournet uses traditional methods of hand engraving. He uses only a hand-

ENGRAVING LECTURE STARTS AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE GENERAL SOCIETY LIBRARY
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$15 General admission, $10 General Society members, $5 Students

Walter Moberg, Jr. is acknowledged worldwide as the premier American fireplace
architect. Technical design, artistic elegance and robust fires have been the cornerstones
of his life and career. His architectural sensibilities and design expertise guide his vision
to create some of the most magnificent fireplaces of the 20th and 21st century. He
blends traditional fireplace materials and modern technology into complex fireplace
designs and installations, and holds patents on several fireplace designs. He is a key
consultant to architects during design and construction projects that involve challenging
requirements, such as circuitous or horizontal chimneys and tremendous openings
involving gas or wood-burning operations. Mr. Moberg collaborates with individual
classics on the restoration and renewal of classical fireplaces. Over the last four years
he has been an "ad hoc" consultant to the Cabinet Didier in Paris, assisting in the plans for
restoration of the fireplaces at the Chateau de Versailles. His custom fireplace designs
grace global, high profile venues, as well as the homes of recognized names in the world
of business, politics and entertainment.

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Charles Flickinger began his career in glass as a stained glass craftsman and designer. His early
years in New York were spent working at several leading glass studios, including Rambusch
Decorating, where he became involved in bent glass while working on the restoration of the
Statue of Liberty's torch. He later pursued his interest in bent glass by apprenticing to leading
bent glass craftsmen: Maurice Heaton, Sydney Cash, Hans Deutsch and John Morgan. The bent
glass process is done just as the master craftsmen of Europe did: slumping sheet glass into
steel molds.

In 1985, he opened Flickinger Glassworks in a small loft in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. The business
expanded, and in 1990 it moved to its present 7,000 square-foot shop in the historic Red Hook
piers in Brooklyn. There, it is at the forefront of the industry, providing creative solutions and
tantalizing visual interpretations for designers and architects, as well as stained glass windows
and glass restorations for major historical landmarks, museums and churches. The business has
expanded its skills with glass to include cabinetry and unique lighting solutions. The breadth
of the company's applications can be explored at www.flickingerglassworks.com.

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Straw marquetry, once considered extinct, originated in the court of Louis XV and returned briefly in 1930s Art Deco designs. This painstaking craft has been resurrected to serene effect by artisan Sandrine Viollet, who uses the art to form elaborate patterns on boxes, decorative panels, small pieces of furniture and walls. She employs individual pieces of wheat, barley or oat straw imported from France. The straight, clean lines, subtle color, and natural iridescence of straw all contribute to the allure of her work, prized by interior designers and architects. Ms. Viollet's atelier also designs in many other unique finishes, using marquetry and inlay, wood veneers, and parchment. Her creations can be viewed at her website: www.atelierviollet.com.
The General Society of Mechanics & Tradesmen of the City of New York was founded in 1785 by the skilled craftsmen of the City. Today, this 226-year old organization continues to serve and improve the quality of life of the people of the City of New York through its educational, philanthropic and cultural programs including its tuition-free Mechanics’ Institute, The General Society Library, and its century-old Lecture Series.

In 1820, The General Society opened one of the City’s first free schools as well as the Apprentices’ Library. The school, which became the Mechanics’ Institute in 1858, continues to provide tuition-free evening instruction in trades-related education and provides a unique service to improve job opportunities for New Yorkers in the building and construction industry. It also provides a trained workforce for the building and construction industry. Without a tuition-free education, many of our students would be unable to get the technical education needed to advance in today’s environment. The Institute is the oldest privately supported technical school in New York City.

Founded in 1820, the General Society Library is the second oldest library in New York City and one of three remaining private membership circulating libraries. It serves the educational programs of The General Society. It also makes its extensive collections available to other institutions and the public. The book and periodical collections of the Library span two centuries and are suited to both scholarly research and recreational reading. Its archives date back to 1785.

The Labor, Landmarks and Literature Lecture Series continues a tradition of public lectures that started at GSMT in 1837. The Series brings people of diverse interests from the entire New York area into our library space. Each year, a series of 12 lectures has traditionally covered the topics of artisanship, craftsmanship, labor, literature and landmarks.

Our building at 20 West 44th Street is the fifth home of The General Society. The façade of the building is a New York City landmark and the building itself is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The library’s main reading room soars to a height of three stories and is topped by a magnificent skylight.

The General Society is a 501(c)3 nonprofit charitable organization.

For further information please contact Victoria A. Dengel, President, The General Society of Mechanics & Tradesmen at victoria.dengel@generalsociety.org