

Guide to the Upstate Crafts Collection

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COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

Formed in 1979, Upstate Crafts promoted “public appreciation of high-quality crafts, both traditional and innovative,” and worked to “encourage craftspeople to achieve high standards.” They sponsored annual fairs to expose crafts workers to the jurying process to offer “a constructive critique of the work submitted” which is meant to be “an educational experience for the craftsperson.” Fairs were designed to be professional and diverse, with crafts of different media arranged in a gallery setting to be complementary and engaging.

Members of this non-profit came from all across upstate New York, from Binghamton to Syracuse to Buffalo, with some from as far away as New Jersey and Virginia. A large portion were from Ithaca and other parts of Tompkins County. Crafts workers in multiple media were represented, including stained glass, metals and jewelry, weavers, quilters, wood workers and ceramics workers, sculptors and potters, and more.

This collection contains newsletters and bulletins highlighting fairs from 1982-1985.

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