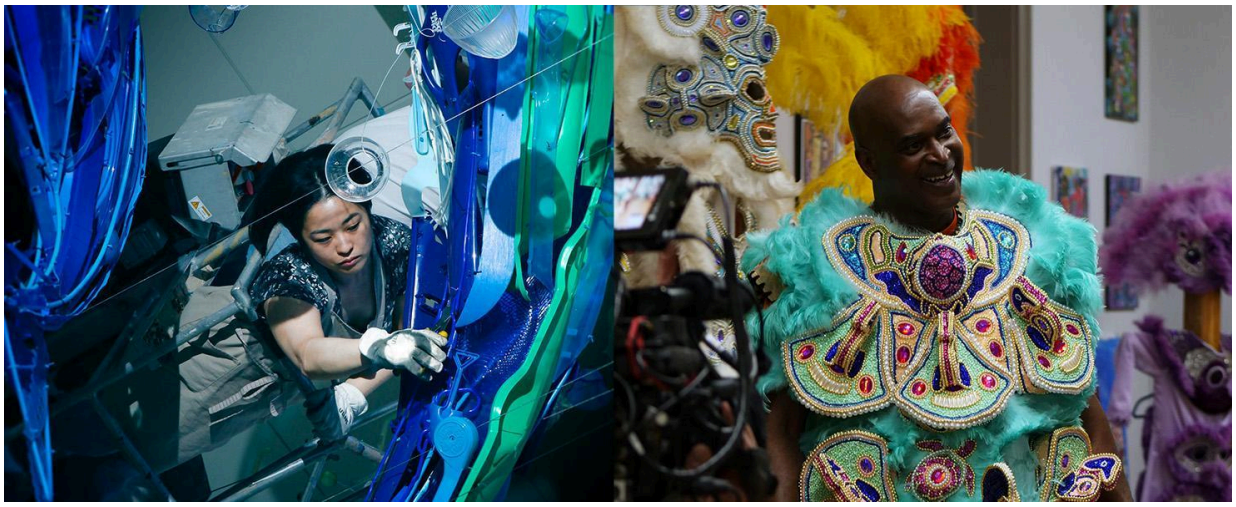
CRAFT IN AMERICA

SOUTH

NEW EPISODE PREMIERES ON PBS DECEMBER 18, 2026 AT 10 pm

(check local listings)

Available for streaming November 13th, 2026
on the PBS app and craftinamerica.org



[Los Angeles] - **SOUTH: New Episode of Craft in America Coming to PBS December 2026**

The Peabody Award-winning PBS documentary series Craft in America brings a year of celebrating American craft to a close this December with a new episode, SOUTH. Now in its eighteenth season, the series explores America's creative spirit through the language and traditions of the handmade.

SOUTH premieres on PBS Friday, December 18, and streams starting Friday, November 13. The featured artists reflect the broad diversity of America's human story, focusing on craft from the South region of the country. The episode invites viewers to learn from time-honored traditions. Artists share family stories, demonstrate traditional and contemporary crafting techniques, and connect to Indigenous and immigrant histories. These stories open a gateway to understanding why craft matters to our nation today. Craft in America is showcasing artists whose work tells unique stories about craft, creativity, and the possibilities of the handmade.

This episode is part of *Handwork: Celebrating American Craft 2026*, a yearlong initiative marking

the nation's 250th anniversary and celebrating the diversity of the crafts that define America. It joins NORTH, also premiering this season, and EAST and WEST, which aired in December 2025, and completes Craft in America's exciting four-episode event uplifting craft across all regions of the country.

Handwork 2026 demonstrates the importance of the handmade throughout our history and in contemporary life, with over 250 partners across the country organizing events, exhibitions, and more. Artists from the Craft in America series are featured in *Handwork: Handcrafted Objects that Made America*, the official book of *Handwork 2026*. Visit handwork2026.org to learn more about ongoing events across the nation.

"We have produced 37 episodes of our series for 19 years now on PBS," says Executive Producer and Director Patricia Bischetti. "The significance of the handmade is becoming increasingly relevant right now. Our goal at Craft in America is to continue to explore the connections between craft, our unique history and our country's vibrant and diverse cultures."

Craft in America is the Peabody Award-winning and Emmy-nominated documentary series discovering the beauty, significance, and relevance of handmade objects and the artists who make them. Previous episodes of the series are available to stream on YouTube and the PBS app.

"Craft in America…[has a] knack for telling big stories…about the formation of culture, the purpose of creativity, the idea that the pursuits of beauty and utility are foundational to humanity."**–*The New York Times***

For detailed information on the artists in SOUTH, see below.



Shaka Zulu. Denise Kang photograph

SOUTH

SOUTH explores craft artists who are building an inclusive and hopeful future. From elaborate costumes of New Orleans masking societies to mosaic stained glass in Miami and the vibrant artist community rebuilding after Hurricane Helene, the episode demonstrates the resilience and creativity of the American South.

EPISODE HIGHLIGHTS

In Atlanta, Georgia, **Ato Ribeiro** creates wooden quilt sculptures from repurposed wood, taking inspiration from his Ghanaian roots. He draws on African-American family legacy as well as Ghanaian culture in his work, referencing kente cloth, adinkra symbols, and Black American history.

The members of the **Osceola-Zepeda family** in Naples, Florida, are crafters who are preserving Seminole traditions and passing them down to the next generation. Karie, Jessica, and Marissa Osceola and Brian, Pedro, and Corinne Zepeda create patchwork clothes, sweetgrass baskets, beaded jewelry and bandolier bags, and dugout canoes in the Florida Everglades.

Spruce Pine, North Carolina, is the home of **Vicki Essig**, a fiber artist who raises hundreds of silkworms a year, painstakingly guiding them to spin fabric into patterns and construct wearable art garments with no thread or scissors. She uses her work to communicate important messages about equality and inclusion and to connect to the natural world of North Carolina, where Hurricane Helene devastated her community in 2024.

In Miami Beach, Florida, **Sebastian Duncan-Portuondo** is a stained glass mosaic artist whose work draws on his family's Cuban heritage and his own queer identity. He shows his process, making a window, an art wall, a fireplace, and a collaborative community event memorializing the victims of the 2016 Pulse nightclub shooting.

Finally, the Ninth Ward of New Orleans during Mardi Gras is full of the traditional Black Masking societies, parading to show off the elaborate, three-dimensional costumes they make over the course of a year in an incredible 200-year-old tradition. **Shaka Zulu** of the Golden Feather Hunters and **Edward Buckner** of the Red Flame Hunters youth tribe show how they create beaded suits and connect to their communities.

OUR MISSION
To promote and advance original handcrafted work through programs in all media

OUR GOALS
To document the importance of handmade objects and the artists who make them
To provide a gateway to discover, explore and experience craft
To celebrate our nation's cultures through craft

CRAFT IN AMERICA, Inc. is a Los Angeles-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

CONTACT
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Preview both episodes - 3 minutes

NORTH
(More information and artist profiles)

NORTH Press images

Preview NORTH
Password: NORTHcraftv4#

SOUTH
(More information and artist profiles)

SOUTH Press images

Preview SOUTH
Password: S2026cr#ft