

The Craft Spectrum

An introduction to craft developed by the Canadian Crafts Federation

Technology

Craft is closely linked to technological change within society. Making practices are ever-evolving, both reflecting and inspiring the use of new tools and technologies.

Materials & Process

Craft centres on a deep engagement with materials and processes, honed over time. It expresses the knowledge of the maker in conversation with the materials they use.

Community

Craft is deeply rooted in community. Makers have long gathered together, seeking shared resilience, kindred purpose, and professional support.

Making Traditions

Craft connects to longstanding making traditions, while continuing to develop them. Craft objects may express, reaffirm, and also question ideas of identity.

Learning

Craft has long been fueled by an interest in learning through doing, propelled by a modern revival of peer-led skill sharing.

Human History

Craft is embedded in human history, spanning millennia. The impulse to make objects for use, ceremony, and expression extends to the earliest human societies and all global cultures.

Economy

Craft economies are a key attraction for local and global buying markets, creating linkages between people and handmade objects. They drive tourism, export, and entrepreneurship, empowering communities across Canada.

Artistic Expression

Craft emanates from human experience, cutting across geographic and cultural boundaries. Acts of making can connect an individual to a community, to a sense of well-being, and to the transformative potential of their own skill.

Cultural Exchange

Craft facilitates cultural exchange in a way that transcends language. We learn about each other and share knowledge through making practices and traditions.

The Canadian Crafts Federation acknowledges, respects, and values the diversity of voices, perspectives, and experiences of craft from across Turtle Island. By developing a spectrum of craft, rather than a rigid definition, space is created to find your place in craft, rather than a set mould you must adapt to.

- Maegen Black, CCF/FCMA Director

Read the full guide at:
canadiancraftsfederation.ca/advocacy/