



Susan Hanrahan
2021 Laureate

“The entire community has benefited immensely from her commitment to craft and by granting this award, may it express a bit of our appreciation and admiration for her dedication, energy, generosity and superb leadership.”

- Pamela Ritchie, artist-jeweller

As Executive Director of **Craft Nova Scotia**, Susan guided, influenced, and contributed to the ongoing development of craft on a provincial, national, and international level. Leading not only Craft Nova Scotia itself, but also the Centre for Craft Nova Scotia, one of Canada's only public institutions dedicated to education, promotion and opportunities for fine craft artists in the province, which includes the craft-focused Mary E. Black Gallery.

Working with all three levels of government, she often acted as a policy consultant, serving on a variety of advisory and steering committees, including the inaugural board of Arts Nova Scotia, the Organizing Committee of the G7 Showcase Halifax, and the NS Cultural Human Resources Group. A founding Board member of Craft Alliance Atlantic Association, she was also heavily involved in work with the Canadian Crafts Council, and its transformation to the Canadian Crafts Federation, the Trade Team Canada Craft Working Group, Nova Scotia Cultural Network, Cultural Federations of Nova Scotia, and Arts Nova Scotia.

The Robert Jekyll Award for Leadership in Craft celebrates distinguished contributors to the craft sector and is one of the highest markers of exceptional commitment to the development of the craft community in Canada. Named after the founding president of the CCF/FCMA, stained glass artist and arts administrator Robert Jekyll, this award reflects the role he played in guiding, expanding, and leading the craft sector in Canada. To be a recipient of this award is to be recognized as an invaluable citizen of craft.

In her 33 years with Craft Nova Scotia, her leadership opened opportunities for craft artists to participate in Design Week, the Cheongju International Craft Biennale, Professional Artists in the Schools, and countless wholesale, export, and business growth opportunities. She contributed greatly to projects like the “**Life's Work: Six Conversations with Makers**” series of film shorts, and on a regular basis guided gallery exhibitions, contemporary art fairs, trade shows, best practices missions, educational missions, conferences and exploratory partnerships with craft organizations and events across Canada, the USA, and Europe.

Susan represented the craft community with distinction, bringing joy and dedication to every project. As an administrator, advocate, and director, her effective diplomacy has inspired so many.

Nominated by Julie Rosvall and Jeffrey Cowling.



Amy Gogarty
2021 Shortlist

“Amy has been and continues to be an extraordinary contributor, as a professional and as a volunteer, enhancing and strengthening the status of Craft across Canada and abroad.”

- Raine McKay, Executive Director of the Craft Council of BC and Debra Sloan, President of the North-West Ceramics Foundation

Amy is a highly regarded writer, moderator, speaker, and curator, who has achieved national and international recognition. She is an indefatigable author; transmitting and advancing the intellectual conversation around contemporary craft as a co-editor of *Utopic Impulses: Contemporary Ceramics Practice*, *Craft Perception and Practice*, and a frequent contributor to *Galleries West*.

While maintaining an active art practice, she is a dedicated volunteer who contributes enormously to the craft community across Canada. Amy's intellectual rigour dignifies and educates while creating awareness around the endeavours of craft artists.



Claire Kusy
2021 Shortlist

“There is so much more to be said about Claire's accomplishments and skills. It was difficult to choose a highlight because the leadership qualities of this remarkable woman are expressed in all aspects of her professional life as an artist and manager.”

- Laurence Drubigny, Karine Gaucher

From lawyer to Craftsperson, Claire Kusy is the former Executive for the Centre des métiers du cuir de Montréal (CMCM). With a passion for leatherwork and shoes, her visionary contributions in the province of Quebec and beyond are internationally renowned.

Claire has been directly credited for the development of footwear and design workshops, helping to bring Canada's first footwear program to life. An instigator and organizer, responsible for the rise of specialization of leather goods, she advocates for artists and leads exceptional teams.