Made in Connecticut

Celebrating 25 Years of the Connecticut Art Trail

From a fish fossil and rubber desk to sculpture and paintings by Louise Bourgeois, Titus Kaphar, and contemporary artists of the Mohegan Tribe, the artworks on view showcase the diversity of Connecticut's arts ecosystem. *Made in Connecticut* celebrates the Connecticut Art Trail, a collective of twenty-two institutions that maintain holdings of our state's shared cultural heritage. Leadership from each site selected objects that reflect a spirit of ingenuity—from art-making to manufacturing. Marking the Trail's 25th anniversary with this cooperative exhibition, we consider Connecticut's innovative past and also explore its creative future.

Connecticut's notable history defies its small size. Inhabited by Native Americans before the arrival of Dutch colonizers in 1614, the name "Connecticut" derives from the Algonquin word *quinnehtukqut* - "beside the long tidal river." The state's indigenous heritage, geological history, natural resources and beauty, and proximity to major metropolitan centers and transportation hubs make it a force for innovation. Manufacturers, both heavy industry and precision, have made goods that fought wars, clothed families, and propelled technological leaps. Connecticut's art schools have been cauldrons of creative expression, with generations of influential faculty and graduates. Artists of global renown forged their careers here and call Connecticut home.

What would our state look like without the art museums that enrich and enliven our communities? *Made in Connecticut* showcases the state's makers and builders, workers and thinkers, artists and innovators. It is my great hope that the exhibition presents us with a special sense of place and perspective on Connecticut and its creativity.

James Prosek, Easton, CT

This exhibition is organized by the CT Art Trail with generous support by Greenwich Hospitality Group.

Connecticut Art Trail

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