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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania – October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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## Fallingwater and PG&H Collaborate to Elevate Regional Makers through Design Residency and Exhibition

PG&H, Concept Art Gallery, and Fallingwater collaborate to introduce handcrafted products from nine local makers that were created during the design residency program, the Fallingwater + PG&H Maker Project. In its second year, the residency brings together regional creatives as a cohort and offers exceptional access to Fallingwater and its grounds to design inspired new products. The residency culminates in an exhibition that features the participating makers and products designed at Fallingwater, with exclusive products for sale at Fallingwater's Museum Store. Selected exclusive products developed through the Fallingwater + PG&H Maker Project are inspired by the architecture, history, land, and artworks found at Fallingwater, and reflect the time that participants spent on site.

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, the steward of Fallingwater, views this internationally significant educational resource as a tool for regional economic development and aspires to incorporate more regional artisan-made and small-batch manufactured products into the Museum Store's offering.

"Maintaining the Kaufmann family's legacy is central to our mission at Fallingwater, and we strive to promote beauty, innovation, and good design in all of our operations and educational programs," states Justin W. Gunther, director of Fallingwater and vice president of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. "The Fallingwater + PG&H Maker Project is the perfect way to advance those ideals, as we work together to provide regional creatives with new opportunities and inspiration."

To realize this goal, Fallingwater and the PG&H have partnered to create the Fallingwater + PG&H Maker Project, a design program for regional makers that brings together access to the historic site with a unique market opportunity.

A programmatic partnership between Bridgeway Capital's Creative Business Accelerator and the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership, PG&H highlights the growth and vitality of the Pittsburgh area's maker ecosystem. With over 100 makers profiles, and more added every month, PG&H demonstrates how makers are contributing to Pittsburgh's bright future. PG&H aims to tell maker's stories to audiences both locally and nationally, and the Fallingwater + PG&H Maker Project is part of that strategy.

When selecting the second cohort, the CBA facilitated collaboration between Fallingwater and PG&H to choose makers that retail in PG&H's in-person and online shop. Residency participants included Alexis Caldero, Blakbird Jewelry, Clark Morelia, Gingerly Press, Jen Allen Ceramics, Mary Mack Prints, Rachel Rearick, Stone and Sparrow, and Temper and Grit.

Designs from Jen Allen Ceramics, Mary Mack Prints, Rachel Rearick, and Stone and Sparrow were chosen by the Museum Store. These unique designs were launched at the Fallingwater Museum Store in September of 2021, and are also available at its online store.

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“Participation in FPMP has helped me to further strengthen my relationships with the ecologies of SWPA, including our cultural sites, such as Fallingwater,” states FPMP participant, Mary Tremonte. “It’s been a real pleasure to synthesize my love for nature into everyday objects fused with meaning of place. This collaboration has expanded the depth of my capacities for creative business collaborations for Mary Mack Prints, and I cannot wait to see what further fruitful connections will develop down the line.”

The Exhibition for the Fallingwater + PG&H Maker Project opens at Concept Gallery’s new Annex Gallery located at 1031 S. Braddock Avenue on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021. On display will be the products designed at Fallingwater, along with prototypes, drawings, and other artifacts from the design process. Exclusive Fallingwater products will be available for purchase, as well as other wares made by participants.

“We are really thrilled to support this important crossover between a culturally significant historic landmark like Fallingwater and regional makers. The partnership helps to elevate the fantastic work that these makers are producing and provides a public showcase for people to engage with it,” said Concept Gallery co-owner Alison Oehler. “We’re especially excited that the process of making is being highlighted- it’s a rare window into the logistics of creating art and design objects that we can all enjoy and learn from!”

The Annex gallery is open 10am-4pm Tuesday through Sunday, with no reservations needed. Special appointments are available upon request from a gallery attendant next door at Concept Art Gallery. To make an appointment visit [www.conceptgallery.com](http://www.conceptgallery.com).

The Fallingwater + PG&H Maker Project exhibition opening reception will be held on Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from 6 PM – 8 PM. Masks are required for entry. RSVPs are encouraged but not required. RSVP at [www.eventbrite.com/e/fallingwater-pgh-maker-project-fpmp-exhibition-tickets-194008563837](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/fallingwater-pgh-maker-project-fpmp-exhibition-tickets-194008563837).

Learn more about the Fallingwater + PG&H Maker Project, the makers selected, and how to shop at [www.pgandh.org/fallingwater-pgh-maker-project](http://www.pgandh.org/fallingwater-pgh-maker-project).

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### **About Creative Business Accelerator at Bridgeway Capital**

Bridgeway Capital, a Pittsburgh-based social impact investor, operates the Creative Businesses Accelerator (CBA), which empowers makers, designers, artists, and craftspeople to grow and contribute to equitable economic growth. Learn more at [www.bridgewaycapital.org/creative-business-accelerator](http://www.bridgewaycapital.org/creative-business-accelerator).

### **About the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and Fallingwater:**

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) enhances the region by protecting and restoring exceptional places. A private nonprofit conservation organization founded in 1932, WPC has helped to establish 11 state parks, conserved more than a quarter million acres of natural lands and protected or restored more than 3,000 miles of rivers and streams. The Conservancy owns and operates Frank Lloyd Wright’s Fallingwater, which is now on the UNESCO World Heritage List and symbolizes people living in harmony with nature. For more information, visit [WaterLandLife.org](http://WaterLandLife.org) or [Fallingwater.org](http://Fallingwater.org).

### **About PG&H**

PG&H is a platform for Pittsburgh’s robust community of artisans, craftspeople, and makers. In its curated physical store in the heart of downtown Pittsburgh and eclectic online shop, PG&H supports emerging and established makers by connecting them to customers hungry for unique, high-quality home goods, accessories, décor, and gifts. Learn more at [www.pgandh.org](http://www.pgandh.org).