*For immediate release*

**Craftsmanship and Tradition
AVERY NEJAM | SOPHIE FROST | WE LIVING | JINBI PARK | HYFEN | TOM FRUIN**
**December 12, 2017 – January 2, 2018
Reception: Saturday, December 16, 2017, 12PM**
Crossing Collective is pleased to announce its Contemporary Craftsmanship Design Showcase opening to the public on December 12, 2017. On view is a selection of works by featured designers: Avery Nejam, Sophie Frost, WE Living, JinBi Park, Hyfen, and Tom Fruin. In addition to being featured on our global e-commerce platform, on view in our Chelsea New York space will be a selection of works by: Tom Fruin, Hyfen, JinBi Park, WeLiving, Avery Nejam, and Sophie Frost. The design showcase provides an opportunity to experience the craftsmanship and heritage of the Far East in works from artists from all over the globe.

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**Avery Nejam** Lebanese graphic designer showcasing Harper’s Bazaar: A Year in Retrospect is known for her illustrations of celebrities such as Rihanna, Cara DeLevigne, and Pharrell Williams. She mastered the Japanese silkscreen technique under world-renowned Japanese screen-printer Asuka Ohsawa, while creating her now famous moniker “The Candid Observer.” In addition to her “Chic of the Week” column in Harper’s Bazaar, she has collaborated with iconic brands such as Christian Dior and Sonyia Rykiel, debuted her works at Art Basel in 2014, selling out within one day. Her work has been featured around the world and is collected by celebrities such as Kim Kardashian and Kanye West, three-time middleweight champion Tony Norris, Instyle Editor-In-Chief Laura Brown, Oscar winning actress Lupita Nyong’o, and many others.

**Sophie Frost** Originally from Anchorage, Alaska, Sophie Frost arrived in Brooklyn, New York in 2011 to attend The Pratt Institute. There she graduated with academic honors and a BA in Critical & Visual Studies, and remains in Brooklyn today. Frost specializes in ceramic sculpture, painting, and writing. Through her work the artist explores the relationship between multiple perceptions, inspired by the patterns found in nature and manmade structures. Her visual works bridge the gap between functional and symbolic, drawing inspiration from mythology, surrealism, ancient Japanese pottery, and iconography. She has been featured in galleries in Brooklyn, Philadelphia, and Alaska.

**WE Living’s** designs are by former Rhode Island School of Design graduate Kaichuan Wang. Inspired by the beauty and strength of the ancient traditional woodworking method dovetail. The name ‘dovetail’ comes from the appearance of the joint, which resembles the triangle shape of a bird’s tail. The joint consists of two parts: the ‘tails’ and the ‘pins’, they fit together to interlock and hold two pieces together. Dovetail joints were often found hidden inside furniture pieces, and was only considered as woodworking technique rather than artwork. Quiet different from the Western culture, a lot of Chinese woodcraft goes unaccredited. With this in mind, WE Living’s minimalist dovetail structural detailed design pieces pay homage to Eastern traditions.

**Jinbi Park** was born and raised in Busan, South Korea. Always looking to get more out of life, Jinbi concurrently obtained her graduate degree in Gemologist at GIA Japan and then went on to work at Shima Japan in Ginza, Tokyo where she focused on diamonds, and in particular, Bridal Jewelry. Jinbi's modern and unique jewelry pieces offer an integral balance between complexity and elegance to complement any fashion style. Each piece is made in New York and carries its own individuality and design: custom handmade pieces are developed from extraordinary techniques implementing silver and gold alloys, Japanese metals Shakudo, Shibuichi, Mokume-gane, and the ancient Korean guilding technique Keum-boo. All of Jinbi’s ready-made jewelry is fabricated by hand and created with her extensive skills in silver and goldsmithing.

**HYFEN** offers a range of designer furniture and everyday objects designed with a blend of familiar and unconventional features. Designed by founders Hsin-Chun Wang and Ye Liu, Hyfen received the 2016 Best Designers/Best Design Studio award from the International Furniture Fair in Singapore, were nominees of the 2016 German Design awards, and have been included in the 50 Young Professionals of Red Dot Design 2016 list.
The HYFEN collection features products created by Wang and Liu, all influenced by a modern minimalist Asian aesthetic. Hyfen continue’s to explore human sensitivity, geometry and materials as well as finding the essence of everyday objects and adding intriguing details to ultimately redefine living spaces and the way people interact with their environment.

**Tom Fruin** was born 1974 in Los Angeles, California, and lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. Most famously known for his Watertower sculpture series at the south of Manhattan Bridge in DUMBO, works with salvaged elements where he often uses discarded and found materials to fabricate some of the most recognizable urban objects such as water towers, billboards, and even houses. At the age of 40, he has already exhibited in over 25 solo shows and over 30 group shows in Los Angeles, New York, Texas, Argentina, Switzerland, Israel, Austria, Denmark, among others. He has been written up in many publications, including Sculpture Magazine, Architectural Digest, the New York Times, Juxtapoz, the Huffington Post and Flash Art. His works are in various collections such as the Margulies Collection, FL, the Richard J. Massey Foundation for Arts and Sciences, NY, the Eileen S. Kaminsky Family Foundation, NY, Design Center (Centro Metropolitano de Diseño) in Buenos Aires, and many others.

**Crossing Collective**, a wholly owned subsidiary of Crossing Art Projects, is a concept platform founded to promote a select group of contemporary artists, fabricators, and designers; all whom pay homage to heritage using the traditional techniques and timeless production methods of the past. The Collective offers a range of services including Educational Programming and Exhibitions in its 559 W. 23rd Street space, Curatorial and Interiors Advisory, Cultural Tours, and an online storefront. Its mission is to forge closer ties between the East and West, and to inspire the appreciation and understanding of art and design and its role in society.

**For all press inquiries, please contact**

**Elise Saab** Director | Crossing Collective
elise@crossing-collective.com