

James Renwick Alliance set to honor Alfred University's John and Andrea Gill

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Andrea and John Gill in their home studio on Main Street in Alfred.

John Gill, professor of ceramic art at Alfred University, and Andrea Gill, retired professor of ceramic art, are travelling to Washington D.C. later this month to be honored by the James Renwick Alliance.

The husband and wife, whose teaching careers at Alfred began more than three decades ago, are among five recipients of the James Renwick Alliance's [2018 Distinguished Craft Educator Awards](#). They will be honored during the Alliance's Spring Craft Weekend April 27-29.

The Distinguished Craft Educator Award winners will lead a [free symposium](#) April 28, from 10 a.m. to noon, at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. They will be honored that evening at a reception from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Glenview Mansion. [Register here](#) to attend the evening celebration.

The Renwick Alliance is an independent national non-profit organization that celebrates the achievements of America's craft artists and fosters scholarship, education, connoisseurship and public appreciation of craft art. Founded in 1982, the Alliance fulfills its mission through public programs, educational trips, publications, recognition of craft artists, and financial support of museums and other non-profit organizations, including the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Distinguished Craft Educators Awards are based on the recipient's reputation for excellence and innovation in education, influence on future artists in an education program, significant contributions to American education in the craft field.

The Gills began teaching at the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University in 1984; John taught for eight years at Rhode Island School of Design, Kent State University and Colorado State University prior to coming to Alfred. Andrea Gill retired after the 2016-17 academic year.

Andrea Gill earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from Alfred University in 1976 and prior to that earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Rhode Island School of Design (1971).

A recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Tiffany Foundation, her work is in the collections of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art and the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian Institute and many other public and private collections. She is a past recipient of The Peter Voulkos Fellowship from Archie Bray Foundation (2012) and is a fellow of the American Craft Council.

John Gill earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from Alfred University in 1975 and also has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Kansas City Art Institute (1973).

A member of the International Academy of Ceramics, John Gill has presented lectures and workshops in the United States and internationally for over 30 years. He presented the keynote address at the Seventh International Ceramic Biennale in Korea in 2013. His work is held in the permanent collections including the Brooklyn Museum, the Victoria and Albert Museum, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. He was elected as a Fellow of the American Crafts Council in 2014.

The Gills have been active in summer instructional programs and at workshops around the country throughout their teaching careers. They taught every other summer for 36 years at the Anderson Ranch Art Center in Colorado. In 2014, Andrea Gill started the Alfred Ceramic Summer Workshops, held in conjunction with the Alfred University-hosted MostArts Festival.

The Renwick Alliance names Distinguished Craft Educators every two years and the Gills are the latest in a line of art educators affiliated with Alfred University to receive the award. Previous honorees with ties to Alfred include Ferguson (awarded in 2000); Higby (2002); William Carlson (MFA, 1976, awarded in 2004); and Don Reitz (MFA, 1963, awarded in 2006).