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Review of Crafted Over Time

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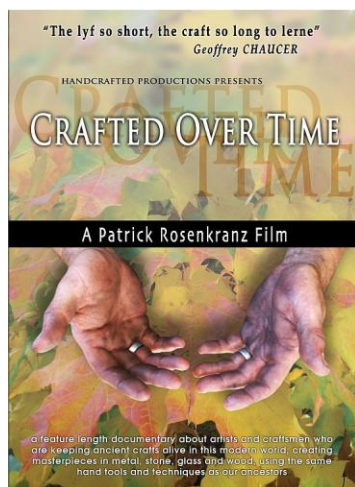


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Crafted Over Time, Patrick Rosenkranz. Hand Crafted Productions, 2009. DVD, 88 minutes. \$19.95.

Author, filmmaker, and photojournalist Patrick Rosenkranz is best known for his work *Rebel Visions: The Underground Comix Revolution, 1963-1975*. In his recently released film, *Crafted Over Time*, Rosenkranz takes an engaging look at the practice of traditional craft in a modern world through the eyes of nearly a dozen craftspersons. This independently-produced documentary begins with a personal statement from Rosenkranz: "People who do things with their hands have always fascinated me." He goes on to say that "they often give us a new way of looking at things and they keep old knowledge alive."

Rosenkranz provides an informal forum for craft artists and "primitive skills" practitioners to speak about what excites and interests them in their respective fields. The film features a different generation at a more relaxed pace than Faythe Levine's documentary about the DIY craft movement *Handmade Nation*. Each segment is introduced by Rosenkranz with a brief word about the featured craft. The film is divided into six thematic sections entitled primitive skills, book arts, iron work, musical instruments, stone masonry, and stained glass. Some sections feature two to three artists, while others are represented by just one. The segments are a combination of moving footage and still images. A trailer and certain segments are available on YouTube, though not necessarily with the same editing. A random slide show of additional images is included on the disc.

This film is somewhat unusual in scope, compared to other art-related works on craft, with its inclusion of primitive or early living skills. In the first segment, practitioners Goode Jones and Jim Gnapp demonstrate leather tanning, flint knapping, and fire starting. The book arts segment features bookbinder Jim Croft, printmaker Margaret Prentice, and letterpress printer and bookbinder Sandy Tilcock. The iron work portion features Civil War replica cannon maker Reece Whitacre. Harpsichord maker Byron John Will is featured in the musical instruments segment. The stone masons segment features both Keith Phillips and Matt Goddard. The final segment features stained glass artist David Schlicker and the founder and owner of Uroboros Glass, Eric Lovell.

The film is not a comprehensive look at the state of craft today, nor is it a detailed instructional tool, but adds a unique set of Pacific Northwestern voices to the ongoing conversation about craftsmanship and skills that are becoming rarer with the passage of time. This film is recommended for public libraries and academic libraries serving undergraduates, particularly in the fields of book arts, glass, and historic preservation.

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