



Images from left to right: Ikramzhan Rafikov, Aizhan Bekkulova, Gabriel Ofiesh, Amy Nguyen

MEDIA ADVISORY
For October 3-5, 2019
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Smithsonian Craft2Wear Show to Include an International Symposium on Kazakhstan's Crafts and Creative Economy

The co-chairs of the 2019 Smithsonian Craft2Wear Show announced today that the Show is partnering with the Smithsonian's Asian Cultural History Program and the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Washington, DC, to create an immersive experience that will illuminate the history and beauty of Kazakhstan's handmade clothing and jewelry. This special three-day event, *Kazakhstan: Soul of Tengri*, held in conjunction with the Smithsonian Craft2Wear Show, will feature a symposium, craft demonstrations by artisans of Kazakhstan, a fashion show, and an exhibition of fashion and jewelry.

This international symposium on Kazakhstan's Crafts and Creative Economy brings together outstanding scholars from Kazakhstan's Kasteyev State Museum of Arts and from the Smithsonian, comparing their approaches to the study of Kazakhstan's indigenous crafts in global perspective. The symposium will be held on Friday, October 4, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm, in the National Building Museum's Auditorium, and is free and open to the public. A reception sponsored by the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan will follow.

The 2019 Smithsonian Craft2Wear Show features 70 acclaimed artists who sell the highest quality, American-made wearable art, including handmade clothing, jewelry, and accessories for women, men, and children. The show and sale will include cutting-edge creations of both established and emerging artists, including DC Makers, who will exhibit handmade and locally sourced items, all to benefit the Smithsonian Institution.

The exhibition and related events will be held in the Auditorium of the National Building Museum, 401 F Street, NW, Washington, DC, the same venue as the Smithsonian Craft2Wear Show, and will be open to the public only during the three-day run of the Craft Show: October 3 through October 5, 2019. For tickets to the Smithsonian Craft2Wear and a full schedule of events, visit: smithsoniancraft2wear.org.

Smithsonian Craft2Wear is produced by the Smithsonian Women's Committee. The proceeds from the Women's Committee fund grants to support outreach, research and education programs across the Smithsonian's 19 museums, 9 Research Centers and the National Zoo. Formed in 1968, the Smithsonian Women's Committee has funded more than \$12 million in grants and endowments.

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