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Contact: Erin Hartz
800.432.7238, ext. 206
erinh@rosengrp.com
www.NICHEAwards.com

Barry Gross Announced Double Finalist in NICHE Magazine's Fine Craft Competition

Meet the artists and see their work at the [Buyers Market of American Craft](#)

Baltimore, Md. (Dec. 1, 2011)—*NICHE* magazine, the exclusive trade publication for retailers of American and Canadian craft, announced the finalists for its 2012 NICHE Awards. Barry Gross is a double finalist within the Mixed & Miscellaneous Media category for the piece "Cholla Cactus" and the Recycled category for the piece "Tempus Jr.". Both pieces were recognized in the professional division of the competition.

The NICHE Awards competition annually recognizes excellence and innovation in North American craft. In the professional division, judging is based on three main criteria: technical excellence in surface design and form; market viability; and a distinct quality of unique, original and creative thought.

The professional division was judged by: **Julia Daily**, Executive Director of the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi and 2011 recipient of the *AmericanStyle* Honor Award; **Arthur DeBow**, Exhibitions Director at the Oregon College of Art and Craft; **Leslie Genszler**, Director of Retail Operations at the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, the winner of the 2011 NICHE Top Retailer Award for "Best Museum Shop"; **Gwynne Ruckenbrod**, Executive Director of HandMade in America, a non-profit organization promoting craft and culture for community and economic development in western North Carolina; **Ruth Misenko**, owner of Seasons on St. Croix Gallery in Hudson, Wis.; **Betsy Poole**, Museum Shop Manager at Fallingwater, the Frank Lloyd Wright designed house preserved by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

NICHE magazine also honors the artistic achievements of students enrolled in North American undergraduate, graduate and certificate arts programs with its NICHE Student Awards program. Finalists are determined by the editors of *NICHE* and *AmericanStyle* magazines and the staff of the Buyers Market of American Craft.

In the professional division, jurors selected 190 finalists out of almost 1200 entries in nearly 40 categories; a complete list of finalists will be posted at www.NICHEAwards.com on Dec. 6.

All finalists are invited to display their work in the NICHE Awards exhibit at the **Buyers Market of American Craft**, the nation's largest wholesale craft show, Feb. 18-20, 2012, at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia, Pa. Finalists in the professional division will also be featured in the Winter 2012 issue of *NICHE* magazine. Award winners will be announced during the Buyers Market at a ceremony on Saturday, Feb. 18, and will be featured in the Spring 2012 issue of *NICHE* magazine.

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NICHE magazine, www.NICHEmagazine.com, is the exclusive trade publication for independent retailers of American and Canadian fine craft. *NICHE* and *AmericanStyle* magazines are owned by The Rosen Group, a Baltimore-based arts marketing, publishing and advocacy firm. *AmericanStyle*, www.AmericanStyle.com, is an arts lifestyle magazine for enthusiasts, collectors and travelers. The Rosen Group also produces the **Buyers Market of American Craft**, www.BuyersMarketofAmericanCraft.com, the nation's largest wholesale tradeshow of fine craft made by U.S. and Canadian artists. The Buyers Market also presents **NICHE: The Show**, www.NICHEtheShow.com in Las Vegas.