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ARTSFAIRFAX Commissions Artist Bikki Stricker for 2019 Arts Awards

Fairfax County, VA- **ARTSFAIRFAX** announced today that Fairfax County resident Bikki Stricker, a potter that specializes in crystalline glazes, has been chosen to design the 2019 Arts Awards honoring Fairfax County Board of Supervisor Chairman Sharon Bulova, Margaret and Shashi Gupta, visual artist Foon Sham, NextStop Theatre Company, and philanthropist Stephen Roberts on Friday, October 18, 2019 from noon to 2 pm at the Fairview Park Marriott.

Each year, **ARTSFAIRFAX** commissions a Fairfax County artist to design a unique award to commemorate the honorees' commitment to the arts.



Bikki Stricker,
ARTSFAIRFAX 2019 Arts
Awards Artist

"It is a true privilege to be given the opportunity to create the Arts Awards for this year's honorees," said Stricker. "I envisioned each award to be a one-of-a-kind treasure with its own voice and character. The vessels are much taller than those I typically make, and each one has its own unique shape, crystal pattern, and color palette. I hope the awards provide a glimpse into the magic and possibility of crystalline glazes."

Stricker began her career in economics before transitioning to the teaching field. She continued to be drawn to the creative process and began working with clay. Stricker found working with clay provided endless experimental possibilities. This led her to explore the processes of crystalline glazes and raku and pit firings, both very challenging in terms of control and predicting the final outcome.

"We loved Bikki's work the moment we saw it. Her pottery is classical yet whimsical. Her glazes are beautiful and her story is inspiring. Bikki epitomizes the artist who needs to create," said Linda S. Sullivan, President & CEO, **ARTSFAIRFAX**.

Born and raised in Vietnam, Stricker immigrated to the U.S. with her family in 1975. She earned a Bachelor's in Economics from the University of Virginia and a Master of Education from George Mason University.

Stricker took her first pottery class in 2007. As a student, she had the opportunity to explore a variety of styles and techniques. Stricker was drawn to the challenges and beauty of crystalline glazes. What started as a hobby eventually turned into a new career. In 2012 she left her public-school teaching job to concentrate on developing her own crystalline glazes.



Stricker currently teaches pottery at the Bowman House in the Town of Vienna and volunteers in the ceramics department at the Alexandria campus of Northern Virginia Community College. Her pottery can be seen at the Torpedo Factory Art Center's Scope Gallery in Alexandria, VA and she is a juried member and vice president of the Kiln Club of Washington, D.C.

Stricker lives and works out of her home in Falls Church, VA.

About the Arts Awards

ARTSFAIRFAX's eighth annual Arts Awards recognizes the visionary contributions that the arts bring to Fairfax County and the Cities of Fairfax and Falls Church. The Arts Awards bring together the arts community, business community, and civic and elected leaders to celebrate the extraordinary contributions of artists, arts organizations, and the private sector for their support of the arts in our community.

To learn more about the Arts Awards, visit artsfairfax.org.

Tables and individual tickets to the Arts Awards may be purchased directly at <https://bit.ly/2NAu16r> or by contacting artsawards@artsfairfax.org or by contacting Brenda MacRoberts at 571-395-4619.

About ARTSFAIRFAX

ARTSFAIRFAX is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization, incorporated in 1964, as Fairfax County's designated local arts agency. **ARTSFAIRFAX** is funded in part by Fairfax County, corporations, foundations, individuals, the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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