



SMITHSHOP

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## Presenter Biography

September 2024

Gabriel Craig is a metalsmith, writer, and architectural historian. He and his wife, Amy Weiks, own and operate Smith Shop, a nationally acclaimed metalworking studio that produces functional and ornamental ironwork of extraordinary design and craftsmanship. Smith Shop has been widely recognized for excellence by publications including *Metropolis*, *Dwell*, *Food & Wine*, *Saveur*, *American Craft*, *Metalsmith* and recently in the book, *At the Artisans Table* published by Vendome Press. In 2020, Smith Shop received the Craftsman Award for Excellence from the Parducci Society of Detroit recognizing their contributions to historic architecture in their native city. Smith Shop has restored, and contributed new ironwork to some of Detroit's finest buildings. Their work is in prominent private collections nationally and internationally, and most notably Craig's work is in the collection of the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Craig holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Metals from Western Michigan University and a Master of Fine Arts degree in Metalsmithing from Virginia Commonwealth University. At VCU Craig was trained as an architectural and decorative arts historian by Dr. Charles Brownell, one of the leading scholars of Palladian and Richardsonian architecture in America. While living in Richmond, Craig spent two years discovering the supply chain of ornamental ironwork in Richmond, Baltimore, Washington, D.C. and the mid-Atlantic, from 1875-1900. His work led to new discoveries about the work of architect and author William Winthrop Kent and the ironwork firm, G. Krug & Son, of Baltimore. Craig is an expert on historic ironwork, having lectured extensively on the subject including at the Virginia Historical Society at colleges and universities around the country. Most recently he delivered the Keynote address at the Artist Blacksmith's Association of North America Conference in 2024. Craig's critical writing has been published in books and magazines since 2009. He has written cover stories for *American Craft* and *Fiber Arts* magazines, and numerous articles for *Metalsmith* and *Surface Design Journal* in addition to a stint as a staff writer for Art Jewelry Forum.

Craig is currently at work on a book about architectural ironwork in Detroit which we will hear about this evening. His research interests also include French ironwork of the Medieval and Gothic Revival periods. He lives in a fine historic home in Detroit with his wife, two children, and dog.

You can follow his exploits on instagram @smithshopdetroit and @detroit\_ironwork.