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## Punahou glassblowing educator featured in national PBS arts series

“CRAFT IN AMERICA: TEACHERS” PREMIERES SEPTEMBER 17 AT 8:00 PM ON PBS HAWAII

HONOLULU, HI – A Punahou School educator is being highlighted on the season eight premiere of the Peabody Award-winning PBS series, “Craft in America.”

**Craft in America: TEACHERS** premieres locally on PBS Hawai‘i on Saturday, September 17 at 8:00 pm.

The hour-long episode is a celebration of teachers – extraordinary individuals who are committed to their own artistic visions and are equally committed to sharing their skills and passion for craft with new generations of students and artists of all ages. Punahou glassblowing teacher **Mark Mitsuda** is among the artists and teachers from across the nation who are featured.



Mark Mitsuda assists a student in the glassblowing studio at Punahou School. Photo: Courtesy of Mark Markley

Mitsuda has been teaching the art of glassblowing at Punahou School since 1998, when his mentor, Hugh Jenkins, retired. Jenkins founded the glassblowing program at Punahou in 1972, using recycled milk and mayonnaise bottles as raw materials.

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Mark Mitsuda has been teaching glassblowing at Punahou School since 1998. Photo: Courtesy of Mark Markley

Underscoring the inter-generational mission of teaching, Mitsuda says that what he learned from Jenkins, he now passes on to his own students. “I feel fortunate to be teaching something that I feel passionate about and being able to inspire other people in the place that inspired me to first go into glassblowing,” he said.

After attending college in New York, Washington State and the University of Hawai‘i, Mitsuda co-founded Glass Design Group with two of his college classmates. His work is in numerous private collections, as well as the Hawai‘i State Foundation for Culture and the Arts.

This episode of “Craft in America” is a part of PBS’ **Spotlight Education**, a week of primetime programming that features reports from today’s classrooms.

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**Craft in America** is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing original handcrafted work through the Peabody Award-winning documentary series on PBS nationwide and the free-to-the-public Craft in America Center located in Los Angeles, which offers artist talks, exhibitions, workshops and a library. With 16 episodes produced since 2007, the series “Craft in America” takes viewers on a journey to the artists, origins and techniques of American craft. Each episode contains stories from diverse regions and cultures, blending history with living practice and exploring issues of identity, ritual, philosophy and creative expression.  
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