From the Desk of Robbie Dein……..PRESS RELEASE: MAY 8, 2024

ROBBIE DEIN IS RETIRING!

American Craft's by Robbie Dein Is Looking for a Successor!

I started People's Pottery as a potter, selling only the works I made by hand, in a little shop in Varna in the fall of 1972 at the age of 22. For the past 52 years I have nurtured this concept to become an iconic retail shop/ gallery and a revered gift giving resource in Central N Y and the Ithaca Community. I was located in the basement of the Clinton House in the mid 70's, the DeWitt Mall in the early 80's and on The Commons since 1982.

Our present location, formerly The Historic Corner Bookstore, was built in 1862. This LOCATION has been the Premier Retail Location since the days of the Horse and Buggy! The visibility is second to none. I have always treasured this location and the aesthetics of this building! It has been a joy and an honor to have had the support of the Ithaca Community to be the steward of this precious Downtown Location. On Super Bowl Sunday in 1986, in twenty degree below zero weather, we demolished the old Charjan's Hallmark storefront and brought back to life and its original splendor, this magnificent cornerstone of the Ithaca Commons. I have always approached the exterior of the building for what it is; a magnificent work of art!

People's Pottery transitioned in the late 1990's and in 2001 became 'American Crafts by Robbie Dein'. I have been supporting American craftspeople for 52 years and have thoroughly enjoyed helping artists make their livelihood by incorporating their personal vision and learned skills to express their humor, sense of beauty, and meet our everyday functional needs! In the last couple of years I have had the opportunity to travel and find artists in Japan, Spain, Italy and France whose works are founded upon their cultural experiences and ideas regarding function and beauty.

At 74 years of age, I am filled with gratitude and joy for 52 years of support from the Ithaca Community and feel the time is right for me to find my successor to hand over the torch of this heartfelt business and the stewardship of this magnificent building!

Every day, customers come to my store to enjoy the palpable energy they experience, being surrounded by so much creativity and beauty and to fulfill their gift giving needs. I am sure there is someone who will be ready to step into this wonderful opportunity and find it as rewarding and fulfilling as I have. I want to ensure that the goodwill I have nurtured and the quality, reputation and value that this store is to this community will continue in perpetuity. I look forward to training, guiding and supporting my successor so there is no interruption of heartfelt customer service, in store aesthetic experience, or change in the quality of artists works that we offer.

I Invite You to Spread The Word about The Availability of both my business, American Crafts by Robbie Dein and the gorgeous building it inhabits at the Center of The Beautiful Downtown Ithaca Commons. I promise to make certain that the spirit and quality of what I have created over these last 52 years is sustainable and to support my successors in their creative journey. I would love nothing more than to gracefully pass along my life's work to deserving successor's.

To Ithaca and the Central NY region, I say 'Thank You' from the bottom of my heart for your support for all these wonderful years! Ithaca is Gorgeous!

Robbie Dein
American Crafts by Robbie Dein