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Norma Charron, of Clinton Township, looks at ornaments for sale at the Anton Art Center, 125 Macomb Place. Photo by Sarah Purlee

Holiday Market opens at Anton Art Center

By: Kristyne E. Demske (/reporterbio/kristyne-e-demske) | Mount Clemens - Clinton - Harrison Journal
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MOUNT CLEMENS — Christmas is just a few weeks away, and for some, that means shopping starts now.

For ideas outside of the big box stores or for people who are hard to shop for, the Anton Art Center's Holiday Market, 125 Macomb Place, may be the perfect place to start.

Open from Nov. 15 through Dec. 22, the Holiday Market features unique gifts, handmade holiday décor, handcrafted holiday goods, fine ceramics, glass, jewelry and stocking stuffers made by more than 100 Michigan artists, all artfully arranged in the gallery setting.

Shopping Nov. 17, Lori Holland, of Sterling Heights, said that she loves coming to the market.

"I like the uniqueness of the gifts," she said. "I think it's great to see the artistic touches on all of the items. The artists did a lot of hard work, and they should be recognized."

Lyn Siciliano, of Clinton Township, is both an exhibiting artist and a volunteer at the market. She creates Christmas trees, bulb ornaments and other holiday decorations. She said she appreciates the fact that she only has to bring her items once and then they are on display for a month.

"This is the highlight, I think, of the winter," she said.

Phil Gilchrist, the executive director of the Anton Art Center, said that the 2018 Holiday Market earned local artists more than \$45,000. The art is sold on commission, with the artists and the center, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, sharing the proceeds.

"This is the biggest way we can support the artistic community," he said.

More than 100 artists are part of the event, and it's a great way for shoppers to find affordable, locally sourced items.

"There's a ton of stuff. The wide variety of items is a really big thing," Gilchrist said, amidst hundreds of shoppers who turned out for a reception with the artists event Nov. 17.

As an artist, Patricia Baker, of Southfield, said that she appreciates the Holiday Market because it allows her to get her work out in the community while the Anton Art Center handles the sales and marketing of her paintings and jewelry.



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Wendy Kohlmann, of Clinton Township, has become "obsessed" with pour painting. Here, she holds up one of the pieces she is selling. Photo by Sarah Purlee

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“It’s beautiful. I’m really impressed by the way it’s all pulled together,” she said. “I’m very surprised and elated that this many people have come out.”

Wendy Kohlmann, of Clinton Township, said that she appreciates having a place to exhibit her “obsession,” pour painting.

She began pour painting a year ago, she said.

“It started out as a hobby and it’s turned into an obsession,” Kohlmann said, adding that she was “looking for a way to sell it and this worked out perfectly.”

Another artist, Daren Dundee, of Mount Clemens, creates “found art.” Each of his 19 pieces in the show has a punchline, he said.

“The pieces I work on ... are all meant to show humor,” he said. “In this day and age, people are so somber.”

A new collection will debut at the Anton Art Center during the Holiday Market, as well. “Judy Munro: New Studio Collection” will be on display in the second-floor gallery space of the center. It will feature more than 40 oil paintings by the Rochester Hills artist, all of which are available for sale to be taken home the same day.

Munro said this is her first solo show at the center, but she has been part of exhibitions there before. This collection includes Munro classics, as well as different “avenues” she has been exploring with her work that are more up close and personal than typical landscapes.

She said she is happy that her exhibit is at the center at the same time as the Holiday Market.

“It’s probably a nice idea because you have people coming for one reason or another ... that brings extra traffic here,” she said. “It’s always nice to have people see your work. You never know where that’s going to take you.”

The Anton Art Center is open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and noon-4 p.m. Sundays. It is closed Mondays and will be closed Nov. 27-28. For more information, visit theartcenter.org.

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