



Press Office
106 South Street
Easton, MD 21601
410-822-ARTS (2787)
asteward@goeaston.net

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Academy Art Museum 2011 Craft Show Kicks Off With Preview Party – An Evening of Shopping and Fine Dining

By Amelia Blades Steward

Each year, the Academy Art Museum's annual juried Craft Show features unusual hand-made and unique decorative home accessories, furniture, toys and wearable art by some of the finest craftsmen from up and down the East Coast. This year's Craft Show, now in its 14th year, will be held the weekend of October 21 – 23, 2011 in Easton and will showcase more than 20 new exhibitors among its 65 national exhibitors, including three new clay artists and four new glass artists.

The Preview Party, a special evening of shopping and fine dining, will kick off the weekend on Friday, October 21 from 6 to 9 p.m. Guests will have the rare opportunity to meet the artists and bid on exceptional silent auction items, starting at a fraction of their retail price. Gourmet food and drink stations prepared by Oxford Greens, will feature such favorites as grilled filet of beef, lump crab tarts, grilled jumbo shrimp, NZ lamb lollipops and much more. Musical entertainment will round out the shopping experience as guests have the first opportunity to view and purchase more than 4,000

hand-crafted and unique items while also supporting the Museum's community-based art programs for participants of all ages.

This year's hand-crafted items incorporate a range of mediums, including fiber, glass, wood, paper, and clay. Last year's Craft Show winners, David Crane of Parksley, VA; Susan Barth of New York, NY, and Martha Spray of Woolford, MD, will again be exhibiting, along with 23 new exhibitors.

The 2011 Craft Show hours will be Saturday, October 22, 2011, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, October 23, 2011, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with the Preview Party on Friday, October 21, 2011, from 6 to 9 p.m. The show will be located both in the Academy Art Museum and the Waterfowl Building in Easton. A Gourmet Café offering lunch selections and craft demonstrations will be available Saturday and Sunday. Admission to the Craft Show is \$10 a person and free for children under 12 years of age. Tickets to the Craft Show Preview Party are \$75 a person.

Founded in 1958, The Academy Art Museum is considered one of the finest regional art museums in the country. The Museum presents rotating exhibitions of national significance, as well as the best from the region's artistic community. In addition, the organization offers a year-round schedule of programs including classes, lectures, outreach and concerts. The Museum, located at 106 South Street in Easton, MD, is open Monday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., with extended hours on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. The First Friday of each month, the Museum is open until 7 p.m. Admission is \$3 for non-members, children 12 admitted free.

For further information or to purchase tickets to the 2011 Craft Show, visit www.academycraftshow.org or call the Museum at 410-822-2787.