

PRESS RELEASE

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THE 28TH ANNUAL SYRACUSE HOLIDAY CRAFTS SPECTACULAR
DECEMBER 4, 5, & 6
HORTICULTURE BUILDING
NEW YORK STATE FAIRGROUNDS
SYRACUSE, NY

While the recession has curtailed recreational shopping, there has been a resurgent interest in buying local. Most of the attention has been targeted to farmer's markets and Localvore foods. However, craft shows like the Syracuse Holiday Crafts Spectacular are attracting throngs of buyers who are intent on supporting locally made handcrafted goods. The show, featuring 125 artists and artisans, runs December 4th through the 6th at the New York State Fairgrounds inside the Horticulture Building.

Craftproducers, with 35 years experience in producing juried art and craft festivals, is the new promoting agency of the Spectacular. Now in their second year, they are focusing on upgrading the quality of the exhibitors and diversifying the works displayed. Tim Cianciola, President of Craftproducers, says "Customers, especially those who come to craft shows, expect quality. When they go to a show and see tacky buy/sell tchotchkes and imported goods, they feel violated. The reason people come to a craft show is to meet the artist, to get to know the maker of the products, and to buy directly from that individual." He explains that the show cannot be transformed overnight. "We have taken huge strides in jurying the exhibitors to insure bona fide studio artists. Last year our attendees were thrilled with the positive changes we made."

In 2009, 125 exhibitors will display and sell a wide range of their own handcrafted objects: original paintings, furniture, leather bags, graphic art, exotic dark chocolate, pottery, jewelry, specialty food products, soaps, photography, and more: many customers come specifically to find creative gifts. A new feature this year will be a sampling of New York State Wines which will be available to taste and purchase by the bottle or the case.

In addition to the customized gift buying, the Habitat for Humanity Youth United Division is staging its "Ginger Bread Houses for Habitat Homes Contest." Contestants will bring their houses to the show and the houses will be auctioned off via a silent auction during the entire event. For information concerning the contest and how to participate, visit www.syracusehabitat.org/youthunited/.

The Syracuse Holiday Crafts Spectacular will be open Friday December 4th from 12 to 8pm, Saturday from 10am to 5pm, and Sunday December 6th from 10am to 4pm. Adult admission is \$3, kids and parking are free. Rain or shine inside a heated building. Parking is free. No pets allowed. For more information, go to www.craftproducers.com.