

FROM THE COVER an inside look at northeast oregon's arts and entertainment scene >>>

Regional artists and makers gather at Handmade Holidays

LA GRANDE — Art Center East will host the 11th annual Handmade Holidays Makers Market Nov. 15 and 16. The event features regional artists and makers selling a wide range of handmade goods.

This year, Friday evening will include an outdoor beer garden. Art Center East will close off a portion of Penn Avenue in front of the building to make room for a beer garden featuring food and drink from Hines Meat Co., Yes Please Kettle Corn and Side A Brewing.

Handmade Holidays will be open from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday and from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. Admission is free.

Shoppers will find a wide range of goods, from leather, woodworking, artisan foods, weaving and other fiber arts to ceramics, glass, clothing, jewelry, blacksmithing, home decor, bath and body products, art prints, cards and much more. This year's lineup includes more than 30 artists, eight who have not sold at past Handmade Holidays markets. The full vendor list is available at www.artcentereast.org/calendar.

"As an arts organization, our selection process focuses on curating a diverse selection of artistic styles and mediums," said Darcy Dolge, ACE executive director.

The facility has room for 30-35 vendors but ACE receives more than 50 applications each year.

"Our selection committee works hard to balance the product mix



enjoying a glass of wine. Several of the Handmade Holidays vendors teach classes at Art Center East. Look for vendors with a sticker that says "I teach at ACE" to get an idea of upcoming class offerings.

The Friday of Handmade Holidays will also include a raffle, the third of four drawings in Art Center East's Raffle Extravaganza. The raffle's limited ticket system allows you to purchase tickets for only the prizes you'd like to win and includes items and experiences from local artists and businesses. Proceeds support free community programming at Art Center East.

Handmade Holidays is made possible in part by support from the Oregon Cultural Trust. ACE is located at 1006 Penn Ave., La Grande. Find out more at www.artcentereast.org.

among as many arts and craft mediums in order to showcase both the quality and range of work being produced in our region," Dolge said. "That selection process also helps to make Handmade Holidays one of the premier holiday markets in our area."

The decision to add an outdoor component to this year's Handmade Holidays was inspired by the European outdoor markets during the holiday season. The marchés de Noël and Weihnachtsmärkte that pop up in the streets of villages and cities throughout Europe give people a place to gather while shop-

ping for holiday gifts made by local craftspeople.

"We wanted to do something more for Handmade Holidays and thought it would be fun to expand the festivities outdoors. What better way to do that than with some locally brewed beer, mulled wine and tasty food?" said Sarah West, ACE's community outreach coordinator. "We'll have patio heaters to keep people warm, outdoor seating and a few standing tables inside so you can enjoy a beverage and a bite while you peruse the market."

ACE will offer classes in their downstairs studio classrooms

throughout the holiday market, including a Lush Canvas class on Friday evening where new or experienced painters will create a winter snow scene in acrylic while

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Tuesday, November 26nd

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