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The Asheville Art Museum Invites You to Shop Local this Holiday Season and Get Crafty with The Big Crafty

Sunday, December 2, 2012 | Asheville Art Museum + Pack Place | Noon-6PM

ASHEVILLE, NC — The Asheville Art Museum is pleased to once again host **The Big Crafty** on **Sunday, December 2, 2012**, taking place from **12:00 – 6:00 p.m.** in Pack Place and in the Asheville Art Museum's newly renovated Atrium. **Admission to The Big Crafty and to the Museum is free for all visitors throughout the day.**

This year, The Big Crafty celebrates its 5th birthday with its 10th biannual celebration of handmade commerce. A highly select group of 75 talented indie artists and crafters, representing the ever-expanding talent of WNC, will offer a wide variety of gift ideas to meet visitors' holiday shopping needs. While shopping The Big Crafty, visitors will also enjoy a wide variety of food and drink including treats from Short Street Cakes, as well as DJ'd tunes by Whitney Shroyer (aka Dr. Filth).

Shoppers will be pleased for the return of beloved past vendors including [Figs & Ginger](#), [canoo](#), [Julie Armbruster](#), [Final Approach](#), [sew moe](#), [Smoking Turtle Studio](#), [Gabriel Shaffer](#), & [Seven Swans](#). The Big Crafty organizers are also pleased to introduce brand new artists including painter [Marie McMahon](#), sculptor [Karen Ives](#), printmaker [Stephanie Harvey](#), metal artist [Georgeann Stewart \(By George\)](#) and metal artist [Mark Schieferstein \(SkrapMonkey\)](#).

In this 5th anniversary year, The Big Crafty organizers have been looking back, taking stock and asking artists who've participated for many years what exactly The Big Crafty has meant to them, to their work and to the community. A sample of comments follow:

Artists & Crafters on the impact of The Big Crafty:

Paige Duft:

“The Big Crafty has made a tremendous impact on my business through the exposure I've gotten. Although I have my work in several galleries, The BC provides an environment where I can show my work to a large number of people in a short amount of time. Since I've been participating, I've had my work discussed on the blogs and personal websites of people that otherwise would have never seen/purchased my work. I've found that people from far and wide come to The Big Crafty....it's no longer just drawing local customers, which is good for all the vendors. I've gained many long-term, die hard customers/collectors through the Big Crafty. This show is BY FAR my favorite to participate in.”

Blue Fire McMahan, Blue Fire Studio:

“The Big Crafty is so ahead of the curve when it comes to knowing how to present a show as evidenced by the huge turnout for every show. I meet such interesting people and make connections and ongoing sales. But I think most important to me is that Brandy and Justin are creating a new way of curating creatives' work which is leading edge, broad ranged, inclusive and high quality. Creativity flourishes in this kind of environment, very important now and in the long run! I am grateful! (I want to mention that I have made more money at other shows but I choose this show over others because of the energy and intent that I sense here. This show is a happening!).

I am very selective about the shows that I do and I love doing the Big Crafty because it takes me right into the heart of Asheville and into the heArt of my target market. It is an immediate money maker but also an important way for me to meet and greet the local people who have been buying my art in various galleries around town and from my Etsy shop.

Through my participation in the Big Crafty I feel like I'm not just showing and selling my creativity, I'm participating in something that is cutting edge and has the potential to change the old established way of presenting artwork to the public and thus the way creativity happens. It changes what gets created and acknowledged as creative and worthwhile. The old established hierarchy and separation between craft and fine art dissolves. Creativity wins. I LOVE that.”

Additional quotes available at www.thebigcrafty.com.

About The Big Crafty

The Big Crafty revives the tradition of the community bazaar, a lively celebration of handmade commerce, featuring local food, beverages, toe-tapping tunes, and the fine wares of select indie artists and crafters. The Big Crafty's guiding principle is that buying handmade is good for the community, and the organizers' aim is to make doing so fun. As a juried craft show, selected crafters are chosen based upon their innovation, creative re-use and generally work with that extra special “spark”. **For more information about**

The Big Crafty, please visit www.thebigcrafty.com, or contact Justin Rabuck or Brandy Bourne at crafty@thebigcrafty.com.

About the Asheville Art Museum

Founded by artists in 1948 in Asheville, NC, the Asheville Art Museum annually presents an exciting, inviting and active schedule of exhibitions and public programs based on its Permanent Collection of 20th and 21st century American art. Any visit will also include experiences with works of significance to Western North Carolina's cultural heritage including Studio Craft, Black Mountain College and Cherokee artists. Special exhibitions feature renowned regional and national artists and explore issues of enduring interest. The Museum also offers a wide array of innovative, inspiring and entertaining educational programs for people of all ages. For more information: www.ashevilleart.org.

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The Asheville Art Museum is the only nonprofit visual arts museum serving the 24 counties of Western North Carolina. Incorporated by artists in 1948, the Museum collects, preserves and interprets American art of the 20th and 21st centuries with a focus on work of significance to the Southeast.

Centrally located in downtown Asheville on Pack Square, the Museum is open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Special docent-guided tour packages are available for groups and students.

Admission to the Museum is \$8.00 for adults and \$7.00 for seniors and students (K-12 and college students with college ID). Children age five and younger are admitted free of charge. Members are admitted free of charge. The Holden Community Gallery, Museum Shop and Biltmore Gallery (all located on the first floor/street level of the Museum, are open at all times to the general public free of charge).

The Asheville Art Museum is accredited by the American Association of Museums and receives general operating support from businesses, foundations and individuals, as well as from the North Carolina Arts Council, an agency funded by the State of North Carolina, and the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art. Additional support is provided by the City of Asheville and Buncombe County.

The Asheville Art Museum asks when reprinting images, please keep all artwork at their original proportions; please do not crop them or alter them disproportionately. Provided image credit information is mandatory and images are not for resale.