

Here's a surefire way to wrap up holiday shopping

BY LINDA CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

If you're looking for a one-of-a-kind holiday gift, for the person who has everything, consider clay. From functional vessels, bowls, and tiles to ornaments, jewelry, and sculpture, holiday pottery sales this month, and in

December offer a smorgasbord of gift ideas. Most items are affordably priced.

Redford ceramist John Albert Murphy asked that I refer to the sales as either clay or ceramics shows rather than pottery sales because he feels it cheapens them and leads the reader to believe that only pots are sold. Nothing could be further from the truth.

■ Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills is hosting a show Thursday, Nov. 13. Nearly 20 students of ceramics professor Robert Piensoburg and art department chairman Kephah Tazian will offer everything from oil lamps to pottery. Trish Bode, a clay instructor at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association, will sell primarily utilitarian items such as tea pots, plates and bowls. She has

shown her works at Art in the Park in Plymouth and the Renaissance Festival.

"It's an opportunity to promote the programs in the art department and give the students a chance to sell their craft," said director Karen Lindsay Broderick of Wikom. "We decided to have it on this particular day because we wanted it to coincide with the buffets that the culinary arts department regularly schedule."

The Village Potters Guild in Plymouth holds its second annual show Thursday to Saturday, Dec. 4-6, in the nonprofit cooperative, 340 North Main, Building G-4 in Plymouth. Hours are 8-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5; and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6. For more information, call (313) 207-8807.

■ Oakland Community College's Royal Oak campus presents its 22nd annual Potters Market Friday-Sunday, Dec. 5-7, at the United Food and Commercial worker's Union Hall, 876 Horace Brown Drive, (two blocks south of 13 Mile between Stephenson Highway and John R) in Madison Heights. The event opens with a preview benefit 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4. Admission is \$10 and goes to support technology purchases for OCC's Royal Oak and Southfield campuses. Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5; until 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6; and until 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7. Admission

is free. Call ceramics program director Charlie Blosser (248) 644-4974 for more information.

"This is one of the largest pottery shows in the country and features 180 artists," said John Tait, OCC ceramics lab technician. "There's such a variety of items, something for everybody."

■ The Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association features student and professional potters in its 14th annual Pottery Sale Dec. 18-20 at 1516 South Crumbrook Road and 14 Mile, Birmingham. Hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Dec. 18-19, and until 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20. Call (248) 644-0866.

■ John Murphy encourages his ceramic students at Schoolcraft College to exhibit whenever possible. Murphy is taking part in "Earthy Treasure," Pewabic Pottery's annual Holiday Invitational Saturday, Nov. 15, through Wednesday, Dec. 31, at 10125 East 4th Street in Detroit. Holiday gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, until 8 p.m. Friday, noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. For more information, call (313) 822-0954.

Founded in 1903 by Mary Chase Perry Stratton and Horace J. Caulkins, the nonprofit Pewabic Pottery is a studio for the design and production of custom architectural tile and vessels as well as an educational center for the advancement of the ceramic arts.

■ Murphy, who earned a master of fine arts degree at Wayne State University, is also one of several artists exhibiting their work in a holiday show at the Detroit Artists Market Nov. 25 to Dec. 23 at 300 River Place, Suite 1650, Detroit. (313) 393-1770.

A preview benefit takes place 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 12. Tickets are \$35 each and available at the door. Beverly Hills Grill in Southfield, Canopeo Grill, Royal Oak and Sparky Herbert's, Grosse Pointe will provide the hors d'oeuvres. The public is invited to the free opening reception 6-9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14.

Titled "Defining the Holidays," the Detroit Artists Market show, in addition to ceramics, features glass, painting, print, sculpture and furniture by more than 160 Michigan artists including Murphy and Plymouth sculptor/jeweler Sharon Bida.

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- All winners will be printed in our classified section on Thurs. Nov. 20 and Sat. Nov. 23. Winners must call (313) 953-2162 by Nov. 26 or they forfeit their prize.
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