

Marblehead Festival of Arts

For Immediate Release

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MFoA HOSTS 4TH ANNUAL ARTISANS' HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE

While you're there . . . Vote for the 2007 Festival Logo!

Marblehead, MA (November 17, 2006) – The Marblehead Festival of Arts invites all to come mingle with the artists at its **4TH ANNUAL ARTISANS' HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE** to be held at Abbot Hall (188 Washington Street) in Marblehead. Over the years, the Marketplace has become a favorite destination for Christmas Walk shoppers. Hours of operation will be Saturday, December 2nd from 10am to 5pm, and on Sunday, December 3rd from 10am to 4pm.

From hand-painted furniture to vintage recycled jewelry, a full range of holiday gift items will be displayed and artisans will be on hand to talk about their crafts. This unique format allows visitors to learn about the creative process while purchasing a variety of handmade items for the home, wearable art and other treasures. Over 20 artists will offer hand-stitched beaded jewelry, hand-carved decoys, life-like dolls, designer fabric handbags, ceramic pins, French milled soaps, garden stones, vintage accessories, hand-decorated silk scarves, nautical map accessories and other custom made items for the home.

Participating artists hail from as nearby as Marblehead, and as faraway as New Hampshire and Rhode Island, providing an exciting palette of gifts to choose from. Some of the local favorites include: Elaine Daly known for her coastal-themed watercolor and acrylic paintings; Betty Ritt who along with her fabulous “Bags By Betty” will sell headbands, belts and wine bottle gift bags; and

Kiki Taron Kinney of “QuitsaKiki Designs” who is introducing hand-felted purses with lampwork bead clasps and leather straps to her line of holiday-inspired jewelry and silver jewelry set with natural semi-precious stones. Anna Igo from Lynnfield will also show her beautiful JOJ Frost-inspired primitive paintings on wood.

At press time, the list of participating artisans includes: Emily Angiola, Jessica Brackett, Carol Butler, Tracy Cassidy, Elaine Daly, Nancy Engel, Jan Ferm, Deb Frazier, Kristen Fudge, Anna Igo, Linda Jenkins, Michael McCarthy, Franny McKeever, Helen Najarian, Brooke Pickering, Betty Ritt, Linda Tanfani, Kiki Taron Kinney, Penny Wigglesworth, John Wilder and Steve Winterton. Representatives from Penny Bear and Community of Friends will also be on hand. More information about the artisans may be found at: www.artisansmarketplace.org

Admission is free! Come find a unique gift for your favorite teacher, secret Santa or Yankee swap.

While you're there . . . Vote for the 2007 Festival Logo

The Artisans' Marketplace will also be one of the selected sites to vote for the People's Choice Logo Contest Balloting. The Marblehead Festival of Arts is represented by a new logo each year, the result of a competition among graphic artists, students and art enthusiasts. This year, over 80 submitted designs were reviewed by a panel of judges including last year's Logo Contest winner and owner of Impact Design, Steve Webster; artist and art appraiser Natalie Bloom; and former Reader's Digest Creative Director Bernadette Carr. The judges narrowed the entries to the three finalists pictured here. Starting this weekend, Festival fans are invited to vote for their favorite entry at Artisans' Marketplace and various other locations in Marblehead, Swampscott, Beverly, and Salem. The winning logo will be revealed at the Festival's Logo Premiere Party in January.

Throughout all the festivities, the extended Marblehead Festival of Arts family will be serving hot cocoa from the tree-lighting on Friday Night, to the Marketplace close on Sunday. You will find them right outside Abbot Hall. Come enjoy a free cup of cocoa and vote for your favorite Festival logo!

Photo Caption: Last year's Logo Contest winner and owner of Impact Design, Steve Webster; artist and art appraiser Natalie Bloom; and former Reader's Digest Creative Director Bernadette Carr had their work cut out for them as judges of the Marblehead Festival of Arts Logo Contest. They narrowed the field to the three finalists pictured here. All are invited to vote for their favorite design at Artisans' Marketplace and various other locations in Marblehead, Swampscott, Beverly, and Salem. Then come to the Festival's Logo Premiere Party at The Landing (81 Front Street, Marblehead) on January 30th where the winning logo will be revealed.

Photo Credit for Attached Picture: Herb Goldberg, Marblehead

About Marblehead Festival of Arts (MFoA)

Founded in 1962, the Marblehead Festival of Arts has a rich history in producing a premier summer arts festival that has become a unique forum for artistic expression. Traditionally held each year over July 4th weekend, the Marblehead Festival of Arts hosts a wide range of art exhibits (painting, sculpture, photography, drawing, etc.), outdoor music concerts overlooking Marblehead Harbor, Writer's World, the Street Festival, Children's Festival, Artisans' Marketplace and many other cultural activities designed to provide a fun and enriching experience for the entire family.

The Marblehead Festival of Arts is run by an all-volunteer organization comprised of more than forty committees and involving several hundred volunteers. It operates year round and relies solely on donations to fund its operations. Individuals, families, and businesses may become Festival Sponsors by making a tax-deductible contribution. For additional information on MFoA, a calendar of events, volunteer opportunities and sponsorship, please call: **781-639-ARTS (639-2787)** or visit: www.marbleheadfestival.org

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