

*The Times Argus:*

## **Celebrate creativity at Studio Place Arts**

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Stefan Hard / Staff Photo

*Local artist Pamela Wilson arranges her decorative and functional ceramics Tuesday for Studio Place Arts' annual Holiday Show. On the shelf above are fellow ceramics artist Georgia Landeau's creations.*

BARRE — Step over the threshold of Studio Place Arts (SPA), the three-floor, historic building turned contemporary art center, during the holidays and you will be inspired by the wonder of the season. The annual holiday show at SPA, on view until Dec. 28, reveals the creativity and talent of more than 65 local artists.

The sheer volume of paintings, collages, art photographs and other works should conceivably be measured in terms of linear miles, not feet. Certainly, the subject of much of the two-dimensional art whisks viewers away to familiar New England pastures, faraway travels, and imagined destinations. Local painters exhibiting their work at SPA include Ray Brown, Ed Epstein, Phillip Hagopian, Joy Huckins-Noss, Adelaide Murphy Tyrol, Kathy Ravenhorst-Adams and Susan Bull Riley.

While there is plenty of artistic eye candy to choose from, including decorative pottery, stained glass, jewelry, wooden bowls and bronze sculptures, there are also highly functional items on display, such as wooden stools, mugs, crocheted scarves, hand-bound leather journals, card sets, holiday ornaments, and soap dishes. The motto for this year's SPA exhibit is: Putting the fun into FUN-ctional.

For the person who has, perhaps, seen everything, there are toad homes for the garden sculpted from clay, soft sculpture cake slices (using “chocolate” fur fabric), Goth spiked mugs, cast resin books, flying horse sculptures, and flashy brass earrings embellished with brightly colored recycled cans.

“We’re an imaginative hub for the local art movement,” said Sue Higby, executive director. When you shop here, you’re supporting local artists, you’re supporting the arts education programs at SPA, plus you’re obtaining a one-of-a-kind treasure.”

The public is invited to attend an informal reception at SPA on Saturday, Nov. 16, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., to view the show and meet many of the artists. In addition, there will be an opportunity to view clay models for sculptures that received the nod in the second round of the Sculpture Legacy Program supported by the Charles Semprebon Fund.

Studio Place Arts is located at 201 N. Main St. in Barre. Hours are: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; noon to 4 p.m. Saturday; call 802-479-7069, or go online to [www.studioplacearts.com](http://www.studioplacearts.com).