

Holiday Market returns to Clemson

BY ANDREA KELLEY
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CLEMSON — The Arts Center of Clemson is bringing back its holiday market this weekend for anyone looking to get a jump on holiday shopping.

The two-day event is a showcase of local artists — some of whom are instructors for the arts center — and a way for the community to shop local and find unique gifts.

Executive director Joan Phillips said a few people will have snowflakes or ornaments, but in general the products are themed more for gifts and less around the holidays themselves.

Of the 30 artists who signed up for the event, three of them are new.

“We have handmade candles this year, we’ll have handmade soap,” Phillips said. “We have a person who’s selling handmade oils — like they actually grow their own roses and process them and put them in the oils.”

A photographer will also be making a reappearance at the market to sell nature photography, along with several painters and printmakers — including the center’s program manager, Allison Bigbee.

“We have a variety of artists and mediums, of all different price points, too,” Phillips said. “Some-

thing’s like \$3 on up, so anybody can I think really find a gift, like a stocking stuffer or a painting to hang on the wall.”

CERAMICS WITH A TWIST

Clay work seems to be the dominant trend at this year’s market, Phillips said. Multiple artists are bringing handmade clay jewelry, with another bringing ceramic farm animals like chickens and lambs.

And, in a science-fiction twist, one woman is bringing handmade robots, one of which now proudly decorates Phillips’ own home.

“We have an artist, Wendy Converse, who creates clay robots. They’re really cool,” Phillips said. “It’s a new art form for her — not clay, but the robots are new for her. And they have been super successful.”

‘A NICE YEARLY REUNION’

One of the best parts of the market for Phillips is having the artists and community together.

“I’m really excited for it, to see everybody. It’s a good time,” she said. “A lot of the people who are selling either teach for us, so I sometimes don’t even get a chance to see them because they’re teaching at night.

“It’s just a good chance for everybody to get together,” she added. “It’s a nice yearly reunion and it’s just a lot of fun, and then we get to see people from the community as well.”

The holiday market will be open Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Arts Center of Clemson, 212 Butler St., Clemson.

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SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

These unique clay robots are Wendy Converse’s newest artistic adventure. She will be one of several clay artists at the Arts Center of Clemson’s holiday market this weekend.