

# MUSCATINE ART CENTER

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MUSCATINE ART CENTER  
1314 MULBERRY AVENUE ,  
MUSCATINE, IA 52761  
PH. (563) 263-8282

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## For more information contact:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## HEARTFELT & HANDMADE ORNAMENT COMPETITION

Ornaments currently on view at Art Center; available for purchase starting Dec. 7

**MUSCATINE, Iowa** - Local and regional artists and crafters will be sharing their talents for a good cause this holiday season, and everyone is invited to be part of the fun at the Muscatine Art Center. The Heartfelt & Handmade Ornament Competition returns this holiday season, and each ornament purchased benefits Friends of the Muscatine Art Center and its mission to support educational programs at the Muscatine Art Center.

"We are delighted to host the Ornament Competition again this year," Melanie Alexander, Director of the Muscatine Art Center, said. "The creativity of the returning crafters and the new crafters is truly exceptional. Visitors will want to check out all of the entries before December 7 when sales begin."

All entries for the ornament competition are currently on view in the Muscatine Art Center's glass showcases near the main entrance. The first opportunity to purchase ornaments is during the Family Festival & Market scheduled for 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 7.

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Admission to the event is free of charge.

New this year is the Family Festival & Market, where visitors can view and buy ornaments and other holiday items, visit craft and food vendors in the historic Musser Mansion, and have the opportunity to purchase collectibles from the Estate of James (Jim) Burr. For the children, there will be holiday crafts in the studio, pictures with Santa, and a free-will donation hot chocolate bar.

Judging this year's entries were Muscatine Mayor Brad Bark, Tony Loconsole, and Anthony Kies, Muscatine Police Chief and Interim City Administrator. The judges awarded first place to the gingerbread house in the shape of the historic Musser-McColm home created by Tammy & Ken Bierman & Kristy Cox. Katie Roquet's felted pear ornament took second place, and Becky Whitmore's unique fossil "angel" was awarded third place.



*First Place: Gingerbread House in the shape of the Musser-McColm home  
Created by: Tammy & Ken Bierman & Kristy Cox*

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The People's Choice Award is currently open for voting. All visitors to the Muscatine Art Center are welcome to vote for their favorite entry through December 1.

Each hand-made ornament is available for purchase on a first-come, first-served basis. After the Family Festival & Market on December 7, the general public can purchase the remaining ornaments.

Sponsors for the 2024 Heartfelt & Handmade Ornament Competition are SSAB, HNI Corporation, and Kay L.

Chapman, CPA, PC.



*Third Place: Fossil Angel  
Created by: Becky Whitmore*



*Second Place: Felted Pear  
Created by: Katie Roquet*

The Muscatine Art Center is open Tuesday through Friday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Thursdays 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. The Muscatine Art Center is located at 1314 Mulberry Avenue in Muscatine, Iowa. Call 563-263-8282 for up-to-date details or visit [www.muscatineartcenter.org](http://www.muscatineartcenter.org) for more information about programs and events.

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