ArtWeek Berkshires May 17 - 27, 2024

ArtWeek Berkshires is an annual celebration of local creativity. Enjoy 100+ hands-on or behind-the-scenes events and open studios across the region, from gallery shows to live performances, poetry readings to painting demos and so much more. ArtWeek is presented by the five Cultural Districts Berkshire County and promoted by 1Berkshire.

ArtWeek Berkshires is open to any individual or organization interested in sharing their work in an interactive, experiential way. No professional experience is required. ArtWeek includes visual art as well as performances of music, spoken word, behind the scenes tours, workshops, demonstrations, artist talks, etc.

In the past, artists from the following southern Berkshire towns have participated: Becket, West Stockbridge, Lee, Stockbridge, Housatonic, Tyringham, Great Barrington, Otis, Monterey, Egremont, Sandisfield, Sheffield, New Marlborough, and Mount Washington.

Ready to sign up? Fill out the online registration form HERE.

The deadline to register is May 8, 2024. To learn more about registration, participation,
Railroad St. Collective: Artist Profiles

Railroad St. Collective is an artist owned and operated shop featuring the world of creatives from all of Berkshire County as well as the Hudson and Pioneer Valleys & Connecticut. Their offerings include unique home goods, artisanal jewelry, children's clothing, ceramics, art, eclectic apparel, expert millinery, and other fine accessories. Railroad Street Collective’s mission is to create a prominent and collaboratively run shopping experience in which artists share their work directly with those passionate about handcrafted goods.

Artists and creatives featured at Railroad Street Collective from the South County region include Aaron Meshon Illustration, Moho Designs, Going Gnome Felting, Ben Krupka Ceramics, Karema Deodato Millinery, and RIESM Ceramics.

Aaron Meshon Illustration

Aaron Meshon illustrates and designs for magazines, advertisements, children's products, murals, food trucks and books that can be found all over the world. Aaron’s first children’s book: TAKE ME OUT TO THE YAKYU was on the New York Times top 100 of 2013 and received 4 starred reviews. Aaron teaches illustration at The School of Visual Arts and has also been a guest...
Moho Designs, Petit Pilou, Berkshire Four Poster

Moho design is a silk screening & graphic design company based in Great Barrington, founded by the French-American duo Molly & Aurel de St Andre. Moho design is known for its fresh, graphic, and eco-conscious clothing for children and women, along with innovative products for the home. Petit Pilou is a line of eco-friendly clothing for children in which each pattern & design are made specifically to compliment the color of the fabric. Berkshire- Four Posters is another one of the couple’s creative endeavors that mixes paper, ink, and an element of surprise to create hand printed posters representing the unique seasonal qualities of the Berkshires.

Going Gnome Felting

Sisters Jennifer and Melissa VanSant launched Going Gnome after falling in love with felting and a desire to share their creations with the broader felting community. On their website you can purchase felting kits, felting tools, wool, kit memberships, and felted creations ranging from owls, otters, and of course classic gnomes. Their felted figures and kits are hand-made, in-studio containing 100% US made products.

Ben Krupka Ceramics

Ben Krupka is a studio artist and Professor of Ceramics at Bard College at Simon’s Rock where he has taught since 2005. Ben’s work is
born from a need to be challenged, to design, craft, and create with his own two hands. He has taught workshops nationally and internationally, most notably at Chulalongkorn University and King Mongkut’s University of Technology in Bangkok, Thailand where he was a resident artist and visiting faculty. Ben’s work has been exhibited at galleries, art centers, colleges, and museums and is held in a number of public and private collections. Check out Ben Krupka’s woodfired and slipware ceramics collection [here](#).

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**Karema Deodato Millinery**

Karema Deodato's love of hats began at an early age while in high school in New York City she made her first hat out of some of her mother's fabric remnants. Their popularity grew and she was soon selling to her classmates at school. She went on to study fashion design at FIT and was subsequently hired to work at The Metropolitan Opera House as assistant milliner to the great Janet Linville where she expanded and perfected her skills as a hat maker. All hats are hand blocked on antique hat blocks and finished using old world millinery techniques often accented with antique trims and findings. Her hats have been sold at Barneys New York, Takashimaya Japan and several stores across the U.S. [Shop](#) Karema Deodato's spring/summer hat collection.

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**RIESM Ceramics**

Rie McCarthy grew up in Ōita, Japan. After having lived in many different places from Tokyo to the Adirondacks, it was in New York City that Rie decided to create pottery herself, and there she discovered a Japanese pottery studio. Today, she makes wheel thrown & hand built tableware and home décor items using a variety of clays from stoneware to porcelain. View more of Rie McCarthy’s ceramic's from her [portfolio](#).
Creative Economy Jobs

Find Berkshire County in-person, remote, and hybrid jobs that pay a minimum of $40K a year in all fields, including arts, education, nonprofits, and related, at 1Berkshire's The Jobs Thing. Among some of the current openings of interest are:

Executive Director, Berkshire Pulse

You can also find exclusively creative economy jobs, including remote and hybrid opportunities, at MCC's HireCulture. Several sample postings are below.

Women of Will Directing Fellowship, Shakespeare & Company
Consortium Teachers/Directors, The Drama Studio
Summer Drama Conservatory Teachers, The Drama Studio

Arts Funding and Resources

Curated information about funding and financial assistance for those working in the creative economy.

Resources for Arts Organizations - March 2024

Check out programs including Operating Grants for Organizations. This new program offers multi-year, unrestricted operating grants to nonprofit cultural organizations and cultural affiliates that enrich cultural life across the Commonwealth.

An overview of MCC's FY24 Programs and Funding Opportunities is available HERE.

Creative Capital

Creative Capital is a nonprofit, grantmaking organization funding artists in the creation of groundbreaking new work, amplifying the power of art to transform our communities.

Artist Opportunities for March and April

Upcoming opportunities include the Velvet Park LGBTQ+ Visual Artists Residency. Running from July to December 2024, Velvtpark’s 4th Annual Visual Artist
Residency will award one resident with a six month live/work studio in Brooklyn to begin or develop a piece of a complete body of work. Artists across the United States working in various mediums who are emerging, mid-career, or established are welcome to apply.

NEFA cultivates and promotes the arts in New England and beyond.

Check the NEFA website for a wide range of resources, including:
- Recent Publications
- Arts & Accessibility
- Community Initiatives
- Racial & Social Justice Resources

The ArtsHub site regularly updates with opportunities, events, news, and more.

See profiles and list yourself here and learn about promoting yourself on NEFA's related site: CreativeGround.

ArtsHub is an ever-evolving idea designed to highlight and bring together the amazing artists, organizations, and events that are happening within the creative communities of Western Mass.

Mass Creative advocates for a well-resourced and equitable creative sector essential to the economic and civic vibrancy of Massachusetts.

MASSCreative's Action Network fights for policies that benefit cultural nonprofits, creative businesses and individual artists in Massachusetts. Where arts, culture and creativity are recognized as vital components of civically engaged, economically vibrant and equitable communities.

What | When | Where

What: GBAM Winter Arts Market
When: March 17, 10 am - 3 pm
Where: Saint James Place
Details: Call to all lovers of artisan-made, locally crafted goods! The Great Barrington Arts Market presents their Winter Arts Market from 10am – 3pm on the first floor of Saint James Place on the following dates. Entry is free of charge.
What: Miryam Healing and Meditationsomatic Unification Practices  
When: March 26, 4:30 pm  
Where: Dewey Hall  
Details: The body unification practices offered in this class are derived from the Inner Yogas of Tibetan Buddhism that directly address the energy of the body and shamanic practices that address our connection to the earth. These practices are very gentle and done mostly laying down. The class is a drop-in class and no commitment is required. It is a place to come and deeply relax and let go of tension that is ready for release.

What: Met Opera Live in HD: Gounod’s Romeo et Juliette  
When: March 24, 1 pm  
Where: The Mahaiwe  
Details: Two singers at the height of their powers—soprano Nadine Sierra and tenor Benjamin Bernheim—come together as the star-crossed lovers in Gounod’s Shakespeare adaptation, with Yannick Nézet-Séguin on the podium to conduct one of the repertoire’s most romantic scores. Bartlett Sher’s staging also features baritone Will Liverman and tenor Frederick Ballentine as the archrivals Mercutio and Tybalt, mezzo-soprano Samantha Hankey as the mischievous pageboy Stéphano, and bass-baritone Alfred Walker as Frère Laurent.

What: The Shawshank Redemption (1994)  
When: April 6, 7 pm  
Where: The Mahaiwe  
Details: Frank Darabont and Stephen King’s The Shawshank Redemption celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. This classic prison drama follows convict Andy
Dufresne (Tim Robbins) through his claims of innocence and sentence at Shawshank State Prison. Andy befriends fellow prisoner Ellis “Red” Redding (Morgan Freeman), as the two navigate life in lock-up. (R, 2h, 22min.)

What: Close Encounters With Music: Something Borrowed, Something Blue—Cultural Synergy
When: April 14, 4 pm
Where: The Mahaiwe
Details: An afternoon of Gershwin, Max Bruch (German composer uses synagogue “Kol Nidrei” prayer), Cesar Cui (Russian composer writes “Orientale”), Ravel’s “Habanera,” Haydn Trio (Gypsy movement) and more. When the main stream gets tired, foreign tributaries recharge it! Michael Chertock, piano; Itamar Zorman, violin; Yehuda Hanani, cello.

What: GBAM Winter Arts Market
When: April 21, 10 am - 3 pm
Where: Saint James Place
Details: Call to all lovers of artisan-made, locally crafted goods! The Great Barrington Arts Market presents their Winter Arts Market from 10am – 3pm on the first floor of Saint James Place on the following dates. Entry is free of charge.

Mass Office of Travel and Tourism

The Massachusetts Official Travel and Tourism (MOTT) website includes a FREE business database where you can list your business! To get started, visit their website, where you can sign on as a new business or update your information if you are already registered.

Are you making the most of the #mylocalMA campaign? Submit Your Story for a chance to be featured on social media and in MOTT's My Local MA e-newsletter. You can find more information and resources at Lovemylocalma.com.