

date: April 15th & 16th
show: ArtisAlive
location: Canton, Ohio
contact: Judi Christy of ArtsinStark
900 Cleveland Ave. NW
Canton, Ohio 44702
phone: 330-453-1075
e-mail: judi@artsinstark.com
website: http://www.artisalive.com/Home_Page.html
space fee: \$125 for 10'x10' or \$75 for an 8' table
exhibitors: 76 spaces (representing 85 artists)
hours: Friday 5-11 pm, Saturday 11-5 pm
admission: \$2

By Kristina Malcolm
Ohio Reporter
E-mail: fluxusmetalworks@gmail.com
Medium: Silversmithing

The Canton Cultural Center is home to many art events throughout the year. In the spring it is the site of ArtisAlive, a premier art show hosted by ArtsinStark (an organization promoting the arts in Stark county, Ohio). This show has a playful atmosphere uncommon for fine art events and features live music throughout the weekend and a cash bar "which adds to the ambiance and hopefully the tug for spending money," says Judi Christy of ArtsinStark. Christy also puts "an emphasis on fun, funky and functional art, insisting that vendors are doing more art than craft, and finding unique ways to highlight what they do. It's about finding that treasure that may not be available at another art show but under one roof." The 85 artists participating in this two day, juried, indoor show, accomplish this goal. Artists from Washington, Pennsylvania, Indiana and Ohio represent many different media including painting, fiber, sculpture, glass, jewelry, and pottery.

ArtisAlive was established over 15 years ago but this is ArtsinStarks' second year organizing the show. They promote the show persistently through two daily newspapers, two FM radio stations, an AM radio station, on-line media (facebook and Twitter), e-blasts, 3,000 postcards mailed, and posters around northeast Ohio. Layout does seem to be an issue for them, with several artists unhappy about their space but improvements have been made every year and, with large unmovable sculptures and poor lighting, it would be very challenging for anyone. Ample parking is available and RV's are welcome in a special lot close to the venue. With set-up times starting on Thursday, the artists are given plenty of time to get set-up at their convenience. As mentioned, it is very important to bring your own lighting due to the poor ambient light. Load-in involves stairs but is much less troublesome than some other shows I've done.

I have participated in this show for two years and now consider it one of my best spring shows. Friday evening was slow, with many artists claiming not to make many sales. I was skeptical of the late hours (until 11p.m.) but had customers in my booth (some buying) until about 10:40 p.m. that night. On Saturday, even with a torrential downpour, the event attracted many patrons and I finished up the show feeling good about the weekend. The overall buzz from the artists in the show seemed to be that of disappointment, although I feel their hopes were a little too high considering it was a spring show. Consequently it is probably not a good show to travel long distances to get to.