

OHIO

October 4 - 7, Ohio Mart. Contact: The Women's Auxiliary Board of Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens. Address: 714 N Portage Path Akron, OH 44303. Phone: 330.315.3255. Website: <http://www.stanhywet.org/dynamic/ohiomart.aspx>. E-mail: ohiomart@stanhywet.org. Fee: \$450-750 (plus a non-refundable \$25 application fee and required \$50 donation). Exhibitors: 200. Hours: 10-5 all days. Admission: \$15 includes parking.

By Kristina Malcolm
Ohio Reporter
Email: fluxusmetalworks@gmail.com
Medium: Silversmithing

Plagued with bad weather and the failing economy, Ohio Mart at Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens is a shadow of its former glory. This year the weather was decent but I believe memories of the weather in past years precluded people from attending. Although the weather was sunny for three out of the four days, most fellow artists reported sales equal to previous rainy years. But, as always, there were artists that were ecstatic about their astronomical sales and other artists that barely could cover expenses. My sales fell squarely in the middle.

Ohio Mart is held on the historic grounds of Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens in Akron, Ohio. Formerly, it was the estate of F. A. Seiberling, who founded the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company in 1912 and later developed Alcoholics Anonymous. Originally covering over 3000 acres, it now is whittled down to only 70 acres in downtown Akron. The gardens and grounds are beautifully kept by a friendly staff and are in pristine condition for the duration of Ohio Mart. For the 2012 show, they revealed the newly historically restored Japanese Gardens.

Artists are arranged in five large clear span tents throughout the grounds but may choose to set up their own tent. Set up and tear down are complicated because there are no vehicles allowed on the grounds. Artists are assigned set up times at the beginning of the week and are shuttled back to their booth space in golf carts and gators. During teardown, artist names are added to a cue and shuttled out in the same way, sometimes going as late as 9:30 PM. A new feature for 2012 was that artists could return on the following Monday to dismantle their booth. Also of note are the lack of easily accessible restrooms, distance to the food vendors and limited parking. Vendors with trailers, RV's or needing more than one vehicle must pay an additional \$25 parking fee.

Overall, if you determine a good show by your receipts totaling ten times your expenses, then this is not the show for you. However if, like me, you enjoy beautiful outdoor, historical settings with great people and decent sales then I recommend Ohio Mart.