

## First ever "LadySlippers" art festival success

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EAST LIVERPOOL-What began as a fun way for a few friends to lend a hand to the Museum of Ceramics blossomed into a successful art festival Saturday at the East Liverpool Country Club.

The event was the brainchild of a group of local ladies who call themselves "The LadySlippers Artists for the Museum of Ceramics"- named for the wet clay used in ceramics manufacturing called a "slip".

The group was taking pottery classes at the Museum of Ceramics under the tutelage of retired Beaver Local art teacher Barrie Archer when they began to think about ways to give back to the museum.



[Attendees check out vendors' art at an Art Festival held Saturday at the East Liverpool Country Club. ]

The event was hosted by a group of local female artists who call themselves "The LadySlippers Artists for the Museum of Ceramics". The festival attracted artists from as far away as Dayton. There was no charge for vendors to display their work, instead each was asked to donate an item for a Chinese Auction benefiting the Museum of Ceramics. (Photo by Devin Bezeredi)

The "LadySlippers" and Museum of Ceramics Director Sarah Vodrey each knew several talented local artists they thought would enjoy the chance to showcase their work and the idea of an art show was so born.

The largest logistical hurdle to making the event happen was finding the right venue. That was overcome when the East Liverpool Country Club, where the "LadySlippers" had been meeting for their pottery lessons while the Museum of Ceramics underwent renovation, offered its facilities for the event.

It did not take long for a diverse group of artists to get on board for the event. Over twenty artists from as far away as Dayton set up shop at the country club Saturday morning. Everything from painting and self-authored books to jewelry and hand-crafted purses was on sale.

There were hardly any limitations on what kind of art could be included in the festival except that organizers asked that vendors sell only hand-crafted items.

By noon the country club resembled a bustling art gallery as artists and art-lovers swapped stories, advice and art. Artists participating in the festival as vendors did not have to pay any sort of entry fee, instead they were asked to donate a piece of their work for a Chinese Auction with all proceeds going to the Museum of Ceramics.

Event organizers said they could hardly be more pleased by Saturday's turnout or how smoothly the festival went. For "LadySlipper" and decoupage artist Judith Fannin the event was a win-win situation for all involved-- artists got a chance to sell their work and support other artists while benefiting the Museum of Ceramics.

"The Museum of Ceramics has been so good to us and to the area, so we wanted to give back to them," said Fannin.

With the first year of the art festival a success, organizers are considering making the event an annual occurrence for as long as vendors are willing to participate.

"It would be nice if we could do it again," said Fannin.