



www.thecrucible.org

**THE CRUCIBLE**

An Educational Collaboration of Arts • Industry • Community

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE CRUCIBLE PRESENTS**  
**A Gifty Holiday Celebration and Art Sale**  
December 15 & 16, 10AM – 4PM



On Saturday and Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, The Crucible will hold its annual Gifty Holiday Art Sale, arguably the Bay Area's most unusual shopping experience. It's a unique opportunity to shop for last minute holiday gifts while exploring the Crucible's vast West Oakland studio space where furnaces roar, sparks fly, and imagination runs wild.

Whatever holiday you celebrate, a visit to The Crucible will definitely spark it up with hands-on activities for adults and children, family-friendly fire performers, and seasonal treats throughout the day. This year, Santa will arrive in typical Crucible style and preside over a display of custom bikes created by West Oakland youth in Crucible's Bike Frame Alteration program. Come meet our resident giant elves, the Von Stilt family, and their "flamedeers," and enjoy the final exhibition of work by

our artist-in-residence, Githinji Wa Mibre. Visitors can buy Gifty Raffle tickets for a chance to win a fiery red Honda Super Hawk motorcycle (complete with a Basic Rider Course), Crucible classes, and lots of other great gifts, with proceeds benefiting The Crucible's arts education and community programs.

Shop 'til you drop among a wide array of unique and affordable gift items created by over 50 Bay Area artisans, while ongoing demonstrations illustrate many of the processes the artists used to create their work, like glass blowing, metal casting, and blacksmithing. Shoppers can choose from handmade jewelry, paper products, glass creations, sculpture, clothing, ceramics and more. In addition to items for sale, there will also be an exhibition of eclectic creations by noted artists working in metal, glass, wood, and multimedia.



The Crucible's open house is intended not just to help out last-minute holiday shoppers, but also to ignite their own creativity and get them inspired to make art of their own. Demonstrations offer a rare chance to see how fire and silica fuse to make gem-like glass, or how metal is forged into one-of-a-kind creations. Visitors of all ages can find out



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about classes and workshops where they can learn the skills to create their own gifts next year...or just explore and express their creativity.

Though The Crucible is best known for its spectacular special events such as the annual Fire Arts Festival and the recent production of *Romeo & Juliet—A Fire Ballet*, events are only a small part of what goes on at this Oakland-based art center and school of industrial and fire arts. Through its hundreds of classes, The Crucible promotes creative expression, reuse of materials, and innovative design. Shoppers who are interested in learning new skills can pick up a class schedule for the winter and spring session as they browse and explore over 50,000 square feet of studio space.

Support community arts education for youth and adults, and get your last minute shopping done at the Bay Area's most unusual holiday celebration. Admission to The Crucible's Gifty Open House is free, but a portion of proceeds from sales are donated by the artists to help fund The Crucible's arts education programs.

The Crucible is just two blocks from West Oakland BART station, so you can skip that unpleasant holiday tradition of circling for a parking space at the mall. But if you do choose to drive, you'll find plenty of parking at the BART parking lot.

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**For calendar editors:**

**What:** The Crucible's Holiday Gifty Art Sale and Show  
Family Holiday Celebration

**When:** **Saturday & Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>**

10 AM to 4PM	FREE ADMISSION
Demonstrations & Activities:	11AM to 3PM
Santa Arrives:	1:00 PM
Fire Performances:	2:00 PM
Raffle Drawing:	3:00 each day
	Grand Prize drawing

Sunday

**Who:** Over 50 Bay Area artisans including Carla Hall – blacksmithing, Kristy Alfieri – jewelry, April Zilber – glass, Grant Diffendaffer – jewelry, Greg Pless – wood & metal furniture, Warren – glass

**Where: The Crucible**

1260 Seventh Street, Oakland, CA 94607  
2 blocks from W. Oakland BART





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**Photos:** Available on request or call for photographer's access

**Interview Options:** If you would like to interview exhibiting artists or Crucible faculty and staff members, contact Jan Schlesinger at 510-444-0919 , Ext. 28 [jan@thecrucible.org](mailto:jan@thecrucible.org)

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