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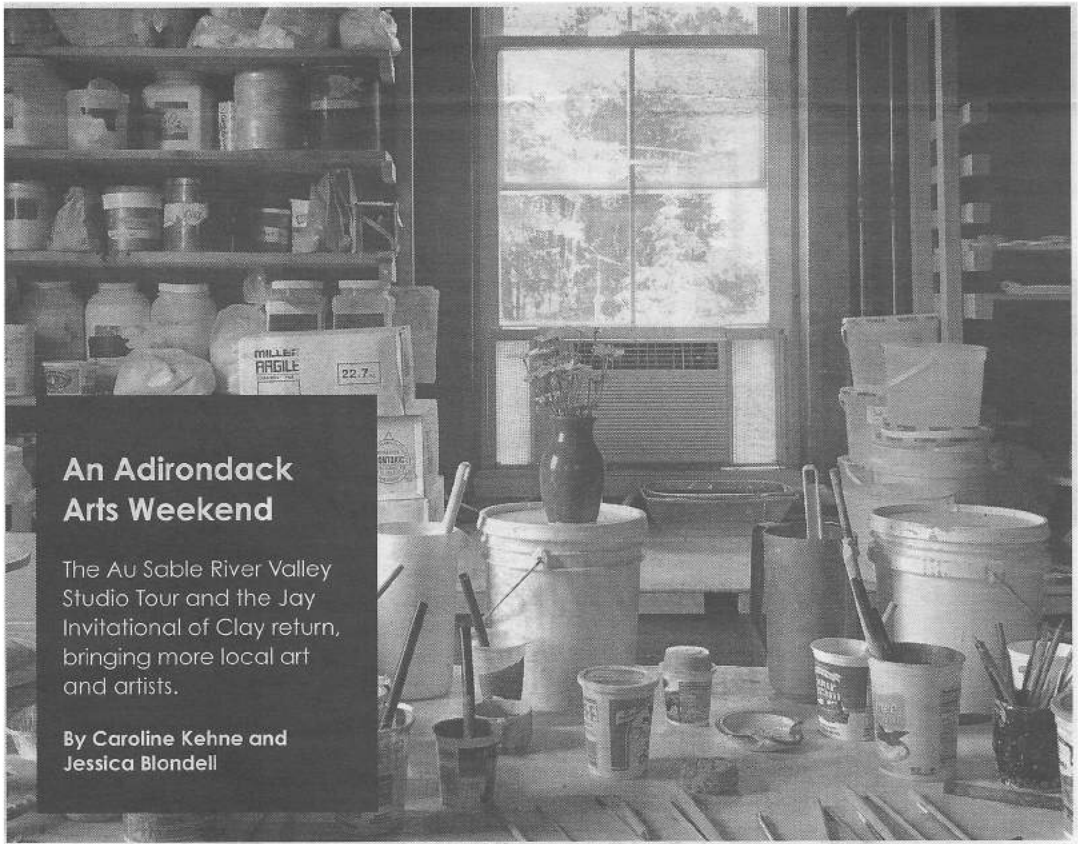


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FREE



An Adirondack Arts Weekend

The Au Sable River Valley Studio Tour and the Jay Invitational of Clay return, bringing more local art and artists.

By Caroline Kehne and Jessica Blondell

The local arts scene is booming, and this weekend, two outstanding events sponsored by Norte Maar return to showcase works by local works artists and artisans.

The first is the Au Sable River Valley Studio Tour (July 16-17), showcasing works by more than 60 artists, with two exhibitions and 25 studios open for visitation. Visit artists in their personal studios, or drop into Norte Maar's Pop Up Gallery at the Mintzers (14218 NYS Rte 9 in AuSable Forks), to see a former storefront transformed into gallery space exhibiting more local and regional artists.

The second event is the Jay Invitational of Clay, which takes place at The Jay House, 35 Randy's Lane in Jay, N.Y. and is dedicated to works in clay by well-known artists including Jackie Sabourin, Sarah Davis, Kim Mazur, Jerry Seguin, Kathy Bordeau, Nancy Armitage and others. Potters will demonstrate clay techniques all weekend for people of all ages. The Jay House is also the home of Norte Maar co-founders Jason Andrew and Norman Jabaut.

"[The Jay Invitational] is a stand-alone, museum-style exhibition featuring unique works in clay by local and regional artists all under a huge tent," Jason Andrew says. "The selection of works range from the fanciful to the functional and it's just one stop on the studio tour...The Invitational acts as a hub where people can meet up, see some amazing works in clay and even participate in our onsite workshops, demonstrations and firings."

In addition to the Jay House clay activities, visitors can join in on the second annual Au Sable River Valley Studio Tour, which shares an opening reception with the Jay Invitational of Clay at The Jay House. Throughout the weekend, artists from the townships of the Au Sable River Valley set up their studios for visitors to stop in and see their work, their artistic space and some of their techniques and processes. Whether it's ceramics, woodworking, painting or another medium, each studio has its own charm and character to offer people of all artistic interests.

This is a self-guided tour and visitors are welcome to see as few or as many stops as they wish. Maps may be downloaded from www.nortemaar.org or picked up at participating venues.

If time is limited, stop by the joint opening reception on Friday, July 15 at The Jay House. Peruse the pottery in the tent, and enjoy refreshments while meeting participating artists and artisans from not only the Clay Invitational, but also the Studio Tour.

Jason Andrew also offers a few tips to those who can't take in the entire tour. "With such a wide breadth of creative artists working in our midst and in all mediums including painting, ceramic, sculpture, stained glass, fabric arts and furniture, it's hard to single out just a few," Andrew explains. "But for those with limited time, I wouldn't miss the chance to see the painting studio of Frank Owen (49 Adirondack Street, Keene Valley, N.Y.); the historic show of works by Harold Weston at Keene Arts (Old Methodist Church, NYS Rte 73, Keene, N.Y.); the furniture workshop of Wayne Ignatuk (522 Trumbulls Road, Jay, N.Y.) where visitors can see his custom-built furniture influenced by the Arts & Crafts movement and his elaborately constructed "Hobbit Door"; CAVE: an exhibition of works by New York City-based artists curated by local artist Mike Yaniro at Tahawus Center (14234 Main St, Ground Flr, AuSable Forks); and The Cassevaugh Sisters exhibiting together again at the former studio of Rockwell Kent (Asgard Farm, 74 Asgaard Way, AuSable Forks)."

That's a fraction of what the artistic community is offering this weekend. Take a friend or two, have lunch, enjoy some of the breathtaking Adirondack scenery, learn more about the artistic community and perhaps purchase a piece for your home or garden. It costs nothing to look, just by stopping by you'll help support the growth of this vibrant, cultural economy.

The Jay Invitational of Clay runs July 15-17. 10 a.m. daily at the Jay House, 35 Randy's Lane in Jay, N.Y. The Au Sable River Valley Studio Tour runs July 16-17 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The public is invited to attend a free joint opening reception Friday, July 15 from 6-9 p.m. at the Jay House, 35 Randy's Lane in Jay, New York. For more information or studio tour maps, please visit www.nortemaar.org.