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February 2013

# *the* Crafts Report®

The Business Resource for Artists and Retailers

## Winter 2013 Wholesale Guide

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Winter Market's  
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Wholesale Artist Directory

**Profile in Success**  
Gourd Artist, Bonnie Gibson,  
Masters her Craft...  
and her Business



## CRAFT Scene



# Paradise City's Marlborough Show Celebrates 15 Years

## Show Enters 2013 as one of America's Top 10 Arts and Crafts Fairs

Photos courtesy of Paradise City

**T**his November 175 outstanding American craft designers and artists assembled at Metro Boston's most exciting show of fine and functional art as Paradise City Arts Festival in Marlborough, MA celebrated its 15th anniversary season.

Drawing artists from California to Colorado and every state in New England, Paradise City has become a destination for imaginative home furnishings. With more than a dozen makers of fine furniture, plus a wide range of lighting, floor coverings, quilts and dinnerware, the show is a go-to source for designers and a shopper's paradise for homeowners. Also featured, were 35 booths showing 2-dimensional art and 20 sculptors provided a variety of original art. The event also attracted some of the na-

tion's finest jewelers and designers of wearable art, with custom work a specialty.

Although final tallies aren't yet available, Founding Director, Linda Post, said attendance was up every day of the show and that all media categories reported very good sales in every price range, including the high end. Two-thirds of the exhibitors returned the anonymous sales questionnaires; the reported results totaled booth sales for the average exhibitor at \$7,452. "That doesn't include orders coming in after the show, or questionnaires that will trickle into our office over the next month," said Post. "Anecdotally (from exhibitors and ticket sellers) it seems that there were also many attendees who were new to Paradise City Marlborough. All in all, a good way to end the year!"





**Above:** Robert Hessler, Kingston, NY. Crystalline-glazed ceramics - [www.roberthessler.com](http://www.roberthessler.com)

**Right:** 'Celestial Bowl' wheel thrown porcelain with crystalline glaze.

Paradise City Arts Festivals in Marlborough and sister shows in Northampton were the only East Coast shows voted into AmericanStyle magazine's "Top 10 Art and Craft Fairs in America" in 2012.

**"Coming in at #6, this is the first time on the list for Paradise City Marlborough. With hundreds of fairs nationwide in the running, most of them bigger and older than Paradise City, we're thrilled and honored by this recognition. What a fitting way to celebrate this show's fifteenth anniversary!"**

—Linda Post, Founding Director





**Above Left:** 'Flight' (close-up view) walnut and cherry weight-driven timepiece.



**Above Right:** James Borden, La Crescent, MN. Carved sculptural timepieces - [www.timeshapes.com](http://www.timeshapes.com).

**Right:** Ken Salem, Northampton, MA. Furniture made from reclaimed wood - [www.salemboard.com](http://www.salemboard.com).



Burl Bed by Ken Salem





**Above:** Donna Veverka, Boston, MA.  
Jewelry - [www.donnajewelry.com](http://www.donnajewelry.com).

**Inset Photo:** 'Tiered Tower' earrings, sterling silver/24K gold leaf.

**Right:** Betty Stephan, West Valley, NY was just one of dozens of exhibitors new to this year's show. 'Cathedral Windows' beaded collar - [www.bettystephan.com](http://www.bettystephan.com)



Next year's Marlborough events are set for March 22-24 and November 22-24, 2013. For more information and applications, call 1-800-511-9725 or visit [www.paradisecityarts.com](http://www.paradisecityarts.com).<sup>TCR</sup>