

How Can We Help Save Creativity in America?

Support Your Local Artists This Holiday Season



[Andrea Jansen](#), Yahoo! Contributor Network

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Right now I'm gearing up with the rest of America's proverbial Starving Artists for this season's round of holiday shows, hoping you good people will send some of your hard-earned our way.

Just as tech-jobs are outsourced, manufacturing moves overseas and school budgets are slashed, arts and crafts in America are in danger of becoming obsolete.



Compelled to create, we are a dedicated, hard working bunch, sitting patiently in our booths, waiting for the next customer who can appreciate our time and efforts, plus has some disposable income. We try very hard not to pounce.

One well dressed woman stopped and offered a bit of encouragement: "Hang in there, honey. This will all be over one day, and people will need beautiful things again." From your lips to God's ears, I thought as she walked away, empty-handed.

We're all hoping to earn decent money for our work BEFORE we're dead. We don't necessarily care about becoming rich and famous but wouldn't mind an occasional take-home pizza. Too bad banks won't barter.

How can you help us when you're hard up yourself? We don't expect what you can't afford, but as you wander around your next holiday show do please try to purchase something besides a snack.

We're artists but also pragmatists and right now we're going all out to produce beautiful cards, decorations, clothing and gifts for all budgets. If you're fortunate enough to have a job which pays or money to burn, how about buying just one terrific piece from a single artist? Business gifts are tax deductible; ask us for a receipt.

And finally, please don't expect Made in China prices; we can't possibly compete with cheap imports or artist's wages from those third-world handicraft shops. But you will be helping our own economy to recover, and as Martha Stewart says, "That's a good thing."

A little bit here, a little bit there. Not always trying to best the other guy; that will help us all get through these tough times. So on behalf of the continuously *Striving* Artists of America, happy holiday shopping, and **thank you.**