



The Brookfield Craft Center's annual craft sale and exhibition runs through Dec. 31.

Holiday Exhibition & Craft Sale continues

BROOKFIELD — Where can holiday shoppers find unique gifts handmade by American artists, while they explore three floors of a historic grist mill overlooking a river and waterfall? The answer is the Brookfield Craft Center, a nationally respected, nonprofit school and gallery dedicated to fine craftsmanship.

For the 28th year, the center on Route 25 has chosen the holiday season to transform itself into "the ultimate un-mall atmosphere," says Executive Director John Russell, referring to the experience of shopping where so many items are completely unique.

The perennially popular Brookfield Craft Center Holiday Exhibition & Sale attracts well over 15,000 visitors each year. More than 300 artists are represented in what has become the region's largest display of heirloom quality fine craft work.

Open everyday (except Christmas) from 10 to 5 p.m. (Sundays from 12-5 p.m.) with free admission, the event is staffed by friendly, knowledgeable volunteers, students and artists, many of whom have work in the show.

Many shoppers and collectors spend the whole day exploring the thousands of items on display. Items include pottery, jewelry, woodwork, colorful blown glass, ornaments and designer clothing, plus hundreds of other functional and decorative artworks for the home and office.

Among the most popular items thus far this year are stylish art-jewelry pieces made from non-precious materials such as glass, polymer clay and copper, silver, brass and titanium. Stylish "wearable art" hats, scarves and men's ties are also "hot sellers."

The event runs through Dec. 31. Proceeds help support the Craft Center's classes and workshops which have been promoting and preserving the skills and values of fine craftsmanship ever since the Center was founded in 1954. In 1982 Brookfield

Craft Center received the state's highest award for excellence in the arts: The Connecticut Arts Award.

The Center is on Route 25 just east of the "Four Corners" inter-

section with routes 7 and 202, a few miles north of Danbury on I-84. For more information call (203) 775-4526 or you can visit BROOKFIELDCRAFTCENTER.ORG on the web.