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Morgan Arts Council – Berkeley Springs, WV

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## WARM AND WONDERFUL ARTISTS' RECEPTION NOVEMBER 20 AT THE ICE HOUSE

BERKLEY SPRINGS, WV—Morgan Arts Council launches “Warm and Wonderful” as its annual holiday show with a gala artists’ reception on Friday, November 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the Ice House Gallery. The reception features live music, food, wine and artists from the show. The exhibit showcases a gallery filled with wearable art and distinctive handcrafted works perfect for holiday giving.

The Hall of Dreams and Carr-Kelly galleries are turned over to West Virginia music with the debut appearance of Lisa Elmaleh’s remarkable traditional tintypes of old West Virginia masters—and contemporary state musicians made to look historic through the tintype process. Sharing the galleries with Elmaleh’s “American Folk” is “They Call It Music!,” an exhibit of photographs of local musicians by Leila Ryland Swain.

“Much of the art in Warm and Wonderful has a whimsical nature,” said Lynn Lavin, curator of the show and a Berkeley Springs clay artist. “Whether it’s a warm new scarf or a captivating piece of art for the home, the show offers the perfect place to ‘shop local’ for holiday gifts.”

For the past decade, Ken Beerbohm has been evoking smiles with his animal carvings in clay and mixed media, including a bathtub-lounging zebra. Kathy Edwards uses papier mâché and other materials to make her spunky cats and dogs.

Susan Waldron of Elgin, Illinois, creates vibrant, watercolor-effect scarves from rare Suri alpaca fiber gathered from alpacas on her own farm. A favorite on many gift lists is an exquisite jacket, wrap or full-length coat fashioned by Berkeley Springs weaver Kim Potter from his hand-woven fabrics. To ward off winter chills, just add a boiled-wool knit hat crafted by Sam Hermann.

Berkeley Springs fiber artists Rika Bennett, Jan Bright, Ann Darling and Jane Frenke exhibit wall hangings throughout the gallery. Also on display are hand-forged metal work from Glen Horr and Randy McDaniel, as well as a great assortment of greeting cards, prints and paintings. Other items include baby quilts, stuffed animals, gourds, children’s purses, hand-made ornaments and Sawjac’s wooden holiday carvings.

The shows continue through January 3. Gallery hours are Monday and Thursday, 1 to 5 p.m., and Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Grant support for these programs comes in part from the National Endowment for the Arts, the West Virginia Commission on the Arts and local hotel/motel taxes. The Ice House is at the corner of Independence and Mercer Streets in downtown Berkeley Springs, WV. For more information on this and other MAC activities, call 304-258-2300 or visit [www.macicehouse.org](http://www.macicehouse.org).