

# 3 North Jersey artists at the One of a Kind show in Manhattan

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BY SACHI FUJIMORI

THE RECORD

STAFF WRITER

Pablo Picasso once told us why we need art: “Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.”

Keep this in mind, as you continue your holiday shopping. Instead of the same old scarf-and-glove sets, the fruit baskets and the myriad electronic devices, you can give art.

And since most of us can't buy an original Picasso, a more affordable option is the One of a Kind Show and Sale, opening Friday at New York's Pier 94.

More than 40 artists from the metro area will be showcasing their handmade fine-art crafts: jewelry, leather briefcases, pottery and natural fiber hats, to name a few.

Three of the artists participating in the event hail from North Jersey. We spoke to them to find out why they make art.

## **Elise Winters, Haworth**

What: Art jewelry made from polymer clay; [elisewinters.com](http://elisewinters.com)

How much: : Limited-production pieces \$120 to \$150; one-of-a-kind pieces \$700 to \$2,500.

A onetime photography teacher in Dumont public schools, Winters found her artistic calling when she began working in polymer, a malleable material similar to clay, which she describes as “acrylic paint in solid form.” Her dramatic but elegant jewelry pieces (necklaces, cuffs, brooches, earrings) evoke the fleeting beauty of nature. “A certain strip of color in a sunset, a certain blush and ripeness in fruit, that's what fascinates me,” she said.

Since becoming one of the nation's leading artists working in the medium, she has developed a technique of overlaying the polymer with iridescent and luminescent acrylic paints. The finished pieces shimmer with color, reminiscent of a school of tropical fish swimming through crystal waters or a peacock spreading its feathers.

“This medium employs a lot of color theory related to being a photographer,” she said.

“That's one of the elements of my work — color and lights.”

She produces affordable limited-production pieces and pricier one-of-a-kind art pieces. Her Red Cascade Ruffle Neckpiece ripples with crimson, magenta and gold striations. Lightweight and flexible, it warms to the skin of the wearer.

As a full-time professional artist, Winters maintains a connection with the local schools by employing a handful of high school students as her studio assistants. “It takes a while to train them,” she said. “They’re spectacular. It’s worked out very well.”

### **Jennifer Cherpock, Old Tappan**

What: High-fired English |porcelain pottery, including |vases, bowls, and fountains;  
serenityceramics.com

How much: \$15 to \$250

After experimenting with various media, Cherpock said she found her match seated at the potter’s wheel. “I think it’s a combination that I like the control — the symmetry and the technique — and at the same time it’s an artistic outlet, a good way to express myself.” She earned a degree in business, but got hooked on pottery after taking a wheel-throwing class at the Art School at Old Church in Demarest. “It kind of became an obsession,” said Cherpock, who teaches ceramics at the Rockland Center for the Arts in Rockland County, N.Y.

By mixing colors into the clay before spinning on the wheel, her pieces have unique patterns, with no two works being the same. “Each piece that emerges from the kiln is a surprise, not unlike the surprises in our lives,” she writes in her artist’s statement. “We need to appreciate when a piece or an event turns out just as we wanted and to adapt when it does not.”

The natural elements, the Earth in the form of clay and flowing water, are her inspirations. “A lot of people tell me my work reminds them of the beach and ocean waves,” she said.

Her pieces are waterproof and dishwasher and oven safe.

### **Sang Joon Park, Demarest**

What: A functional line of bowls, plates and candles and a line |of sculptures made from  
|stacked bowls and plates; sangjoonpark.com

How much: \$50 to \$300

Park apprenticed in South Korea 20 years ago under his uncle, a master potter. His uncle said that to become a potter he must be able to create 30 identical bowls in a single hour. Park toiled for days that turned into months. “By repeating this training countless times, I felt myself become part of the bowl,” he said. Finally, one day, his uncle declared “You |have become a potter.”

Park eventually took off to New York to earn an MFA in ceramic sculpture at Pratt Institute. Art school exposed him to fine art and lofty concepts but left him |unsatisfied with his own work. |He took a break from school.

Sitting in his studio one day, he glanced over at a pile of his smooth, bone-colored bowls resting on a work table. He realized that the bowls that he crafted years ago were his art. “In the past, I did not know how to appreciate them. In the present, they represent my understanding of finding real art in my simple, |ordinary, everyday life,” he said.

Turning back to his pottery roots, he continues to focus on producing the perfect bowl. “Now I make 10 bowls in an hour by |putting all of my creativity and artistic thoughts into each one |of them.”

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COURTESY OF ELISE WINTERS

**Elise Winters' 'Red Cascade Ruffle Neckpiece' is among her polymer clay creations.**

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#### **IF YOU GO**

What: One of a Kind Show and Sale

Where: Pier 94 |at 12th Avenue and 55th Street, Manhattan

When: 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

How much: \$15 adults, \$12 students and seniors, children 12 and under free. Tickets good for all days.

How much: : Limited-production pieces \$120 to \$150; one-of-|a-kind pieces \$700 to \$2,500.

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