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HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 Putney Craft Open Studio Tour celebrates local makers
2 and artists

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4 TEXT BODY:

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5 Twenty-four of Vermont's most prominent makers will
6 open their studio doors at the 47th Annual Putney Craft Tour this
7 Thanksgiving weekend, beginning Friday, Nov. 28.

8 Glassblowers, potters, jewelers, painters, sculptors,
9 stained glass artisans, woodworkers, photographers, and award-
10 winning wine and cheesemakers welcome visitors to their studios

11 to discover, ask questions, and snag that one-of-a-kind gift direct
12 from the crafter who made it.

13 "The opportunity to experience the uniqueness of the
14 number and the variety of craftspeople and artists in a small rural
15 environment is the real draw of such tours," says glassblower
16 Robert Burch (#19), one of the founders of the tour.

17 Burch is an entertainer, glassblower, and teacher, and his
18 studio is alive with demos all weekend long. For him, the tour is
19 a family affair, with both his daughter and son on the tour. His
20 daughter, Caitlin Burch, (#20) specializes in hand-blown glass
21 and lampwork jewelry, and his son Ryan Burch (#18), focuses on
22 functional ceramics.

23 Another ceramic artist, Joshua Gold (#8), concentrates on
24 wood- and soda-fired pottery. He describes his work as "the
25 search and discovery of the endless combination of dances that
26 express elegance and grace."

27 Additional craft tour glass artisans include Julia Brandis
28 (#16), whose work features nature-inspired stained glass lamps
29 and panels, while glassblower Joshua Letourneau (#15)
30 specializes in freestyle hand-blown glass.

31 Several painters on the tour include Lindsay Saunders
32 (#4), who will showcase original oil paintings, prints and greeting
33 cards. Judy Hawkins (#12), one of the original artisans on the
34 tour, is inspired by the Vermont landscape, especially interpreting
35 the mood and feeling of weather, skies, and water. Hawkins's
36 studio is in Westminster West, near painter Nancy Calicchio's
37 studio (#10). Calicchio's work is deeply inspired by the Vermont
38 landscape as well.

39 Also in the same area is silver jewelry designer Jeanne
40 Bennett (#13) who primarily works in silver. She also teaches
41 jewelry-making to students of all ages, both in her home and at
42 local schools. Blake Johnson of Heartspark Arts(#9) joined the
43 tour last year. He makes furniture and wall art, useful wooden
44 objects and sculpture.

45 Another early tour member, Green Mountain Spinnery
46 (#3), is chiefly engaged in machine spinning and dyeing of yarn
47 from New England fleece. Since its founding as a cooperative in
48 1981—the Spinnery has marketed sweater patterns designed by
49 Putney artists to go with their array of many-colored yarns.

50 Another stop is the internationally award-winning Parish
51 Hill Creamery (#14). Peter Dixon and Rachel Fritz Schaal make
52 cheese while the cows are outside grazing the hill farm pastures
53 of Elm Lea Farm. Their cheese is natural and represents something
54 that is an expression of the land, the animals, the milk — and
55 their hands.

56 Susan Jarvis’s studio (#7) is on the first floor of historic
57 Overhills. Jarvis says she “transforms the histories and stories of
58 objects, people, and places into beautiful, complex paintings,
59 sculptures, and custom mosaic tilework.” She will have ceramic
60 tiles, sculptures, holiday ornaments, and oil paintings for
61 purchase.

62 Several artists will be together at Pierce’s Hall, 121
63 Putney Falls Rd., East Putney, including Mucuy Bolles’s of
64 Mestiza Pottery (#22), Mayan inspired ceramics; Laurie Alberts’s
65 (#23) oil paintings, prints, and cards; Allison Korn’s (#24),
66 handcrafted silver jewelry; and Creations by Kerrienne (#21),
67 featuring needle-felted and soft-sculptured wool dolls and
68 animals.

69 The tour welcomes new artisans every year, and this year
70 the tour welcomes Annie Quest (#11), who specializes in
71 assemblages, silver jewelry, and prints; Nick Ellison (#5), who
72 focuses on large format darkroom and alternative process
73 photography and film; silversmith JaJa Laughlin (#6), who makes
74 rings, bracelets, necklaces, brooches, and earrings; assemblage
75 artist Kathy Kemp (#17), who transforms found objects and
76 reclaimed materials into layered compositions that bridge past
77 and present; and photographer Kate Dodge (#2).

78 Tour-goers can start at Putney Winery & Spirits at 8
79 Bellows Falls Rd. (Rte. 5) in Putney, where info, an exhibit, and

80 tour maps are available, or go to putneycrafttour.com for details
81 and map.

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