

Business Award



PHOTO GALLERY

For an interview,
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Artique

Artique was conceived as a celebration of the spirit of creativity.

Co-owners Mike and Kathy Stutland planted the seed in 1980 by starting a small boutique in Lexington, committed to selling and promoting handcrafted merchandise and original artwork. Since that time, Artique has become a nationally renowned full-spectrum fine contemporary American craft gallery with over 4,500 square feet in the heart of downtown Lexington and an additional gallery that flanks either side of the entrance to Lexington Green, a vibrant entertainment retail complex.

Over 1,000 artists provide Artique with its breathtaking collection of ever changing fine American crafts. Award winning work from over 45 states, including the best of Kentucky artistry, make a bold statement in color, texture, form and function that allures customers to come back again and again.

Artique's relationships with artists have been the key to their business success. "We got involved in the crafts world because it gave us a lot of joy to provide a marketplace showcasing artistic endeavors of so many talented people," said Mike Stutland. "It's very satisfying to be a part of this creative community."

Artists attest to the quality of relationships in doing business with Mike Stutland. He is known in the craft community for guiding artists through the marketing process, making prompt payment and a long history of support for artists.

The Artique staff is well informed about each artist they feature, including their processes and techniques in creating their work. And while Artique represents artists from across the country, there is a special affinity for Kentucky artisans.

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Mike Stutland provides leadership and vision for both the local and statewide arts community and has a strong personal relationship with many Kentucky artists. He also attends and supports Kentucky Crafted: The Market, the nation's largest state-supported marketplace of fine craft and cultural products sponsored by the Kentucky Craft Marketing Program, a division of the Kentucky Arts Council.

Artique's award winning reputation helps place Kentucky as a national leader in the American crafts movement. Artique was voted Kentucky's number one gallery by *Kentucky Monthly* magazine readership and has also received the prestigious Leadership Achievement award from the City of Lexington.

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The awards haven't stopped at the local level, however. For the seventh time, *Niche* magazine, the exclusive trade publication for American craft retailers, selected Artique gallery as a "Top 100 Retailer of American Craft." The magazine annually polls more than 26,000 craft artists throughout the U.S. and Canada to make its selection. Artique has been nationally recognized by the craft community for treating artists with courtesy and respect, promoting and marketing American crafts, giving back time and energy to the craft community and mentoring emerging artists.

Celebrating their 25th Anniversary, Artique has grown into quite a magnificent enterprise, supporting creativity all along the way and placing Kentucky on the map as an arts destination.

Previous recipients: Brown-Forman Corporation, South Central Bell, Ashland Oil, Inc., Philip Morris USA, Humana, Inc., Texas Gas Transmission, Martin Coal Company, Liberty National Bank, Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Trans Financial, Inc., Charlie Johnson/Active Transportation, The Commercial Bank of Grayson, William & Meredith Schroeder, Bank of Louisville, Peoples Bank of Madison County, J. W. Kinzer Drilling Company, Fifth Third Bank, Community Trust Bank, and Julius Friedman.