

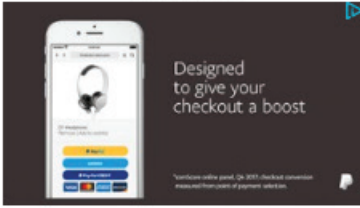
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DIY art spaces pop up in unexpected spots across the country

11 PHOTOS

7:49 a.m. MST Dec. 26, 2019



Cutting edge art isn't limited to big cities and large cultural institutions. Creative work can be found across the country in small towns and artist-run spaces, says Jason Andrew, who curated an exhibit on contemporary Appalachian art that just opened at the new Asheville Art Museum in North Carolina, [ashevilleart.org](#). "These are really DIY, do-it-yourself type spaces. You're right there where all the creative juices are working and flowing." He shares some favorite spots with Larry Bleiberg for USA TODAY.

COURTESY JASON ANDREW

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Granary Arts, Ephraim, Utah

Art flourishes in remote central Utah thanks to artists based in a historic granary building on the high plains. "It's in a very exciting space. It's really in the desert. There's nothing there," says Andrew, a Utah native. Founded by two friends, it enriches the community with workshops, musical performances and art installations.

More information: granaryarts.org

. © KAMILLA EARLYWINE



Popps Packing, Hamtramck, Michigan

This group founded by a husband and wife, has brought international artists and quirky shows and events to a neighborhood just north of Detroit. Housed in a former meat-packing plant, it serves a community with immigrants from places like Yemen, Armenia, Turkey and Ukraine, offering a tool-lending library and meeting spaces, along with gallery openings and shows.

More information: poppspacking.org

COURTESY POPPS PACKING



Fiendish Plots, Lincoln, Nebraska

From Buddhist paintings made from rose petals to art inspired by workplace immigration raids, this gallery and exhibition space embraces the ephemeral and the contemporary. Run by an artist couple, it also offers workshops, performances, screenings, readings and artist talks.

More information: fiendishplots.com

FIENDISHPLOTS.COM



Collar Works, Troy, New York

Artists have brought new life to a former industrial building in upstate New York. The collective, named for the city's once-prominent shirt collar factories, got its start mounting pop-ups and shows in empty industrial spaces. It has helped lead the revival of the area, Andrew says, hosting often edgy art installations and theater productions.

More information: collarworks.org

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Marmot Art Space, Spokane, Washington

Located in the hip Kendall Yards neighborhood, this “white cube” gallery focuses on emerging local artists, but has a polished vibe, Andrew says. It attracts crowds on the first Friday of every month when it opens new exhibits. “The walls are well painted, the lighting will be perfect. It’s a little more sophisticated.”

More information: marmotartspace.com

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Project 1612, Peoria, Illinois

This garage-based studio in the heart of middle America is anything but conventional. It hosts artists for four-to-five day micro-residences, which end with a public exhibition. “I love art in garages and alternative spaces. It’s a hidden gem,” Andrew says.

More information: project1612.com

© JONATHAN WRIGHT



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Seniors Should Be Eating This To Wash Out Sugar From Blood

BOXO Projects, Joshua Tree, California

The desert landscape near Joshua Tree National Park has become a memorable setting for art, and this project has helped it grow. The residence program invites artists from outside the area to experience the setting, and to connect with the local art community, leading to exhibitions, installations and performances. "Because it's located in such a remote spot, a lot of what the artist is responding to is what's in the environment," Andrew says.

More information: boxoprojects.com

BOXO PROJECTS



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North Carolina Glass Center, Asheville, North Carolina

Not only can visitors watch glass blowing, but they can also even try it themselves at this studio that's home to more than 30 glass artists. The center offers 30-minute classes, weekend courses, and more. Plus, there's the location in the middle of the River Arts District. "It puts you in the epicenter. It's a very active area," Andrew says.

More information: ncglasscenter.org

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More information: ncglasscenter.org

CREDIT RACHEL PRESSLEY



MING Studios, Boise, Idaho

A steady stream of local and international artists keeps things fresh in Idaho's capital city. Exhibits have focused on nuclear waste at the Idaho National Laboratory and a forest fire that burned nearly 200,000 acres in 2016. "They have a very solid artist residency program and it serves with the community, facilitating workshops and include performances and screenings," Andrew says. "There's a lot of collaboration."

More information: mingstudios.org

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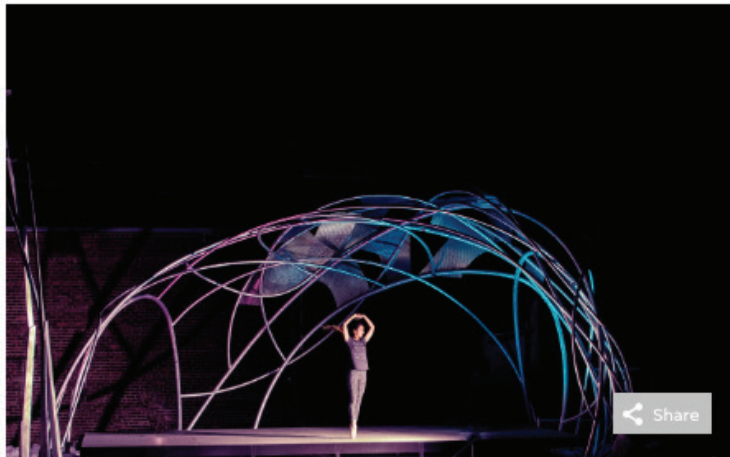
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The Arts Center, Jamestown, North Dakota

Andrew was driving cross-country when he stumbled upon this the center, which has been promoting local artists for 55 years. Its downtown location includes a gallery, performance stage, studio, outdoor art park and even an artist-in-residence apartment. "It's a historic space, but it has contemporary views and language," he says.

More information: jamestownarts.com

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