

# News-Review

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## ENTERTAINMENT

# Crooked Tree Arts Center to open new exhibits

**Sean Miller** The Petoskey News-Review

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PETOSKEY — The Crooked Tree Arts Center has already celebrated the New Year and is now gearing up to welcome in 2022 with three new exhibits.

The first — and already open exhibit — is titled "Punk Dreamscape" and features Midwest artists Esteban Garcia, Nick Martin and Aaron Nemec and their symbolic, illustrative and figurative imagery that touches on the surreal.

"All three of these artists worked together some 15 years ago collectively but have since developed their own practices," said visual arts director Liz Erlewine.

"They're now bringing their practices together again and have really come up with an exhibit that borders on surrealism but has this playfulness in their images and mixed media work," she said.

The exhibit is featured in the downstairs gallery at the arts center and features the three artists' individual works that all share an aesthetic through the mixed media paintings, drawings and sculptures on display.

The other two exhibits — "This is Home" and "Open Doors" — are being hung this week in the art center's Gilbert and Bonfield galleries and will both open to the public on Saturday, Jan. 15.

The Gilbert gallery will play home to "This is Home" — a juried exhibition featuring artists working throughout the Great Lakes region.

The exhibit features a total of 44 works from 22 participating artists representing each of the five Great Lakes showing a united theme of "home" through their work with depictions of relationships, actual homes, interiors of homes and beyond.

"There is a great mix of mediums all depicting the artists' definition of 'home' and things they related to it," said Erlewine.

"Some of the pieces are a little more abstract but are still representational of home. There really is a nice variety in this exhibit," she said.

The final new exhibit — "Open Doors" — will take over the Bonfield gallery and will feature work inspired by concepts related to openness, access and opportunity.

This exhibit had a national call to artists to submit work and ultimately ended up with 37 pieces of work by 17 contributing and participating artists.

"With this exhibit, and our call to artists, I really wanted people to think about the subject, to think creatively and have a forum to share their work and said creativity," said Erlewine.

"We have entries that literally depict doors or ways through something but also pieces more abstract in nature. Even if they are representational they are still symbolic," she said.

Erlewine mentioned that this exhibit also features a range of work and mediums including ceramic work, felt pieces, paintings and more.

The arts center also usually hosts an opening reception for its new exhibits. However, with the ongoing pandemic, the arts center has decided to postpone a reception and is looking at scheduling an exhibit closing date party to still recognize each show and their participating artists.

Both "Open Doors" and "This is Home" will remain up in the main galleries through Saturday, March 5, with "Punk Dreamscape" ending earlier on Saturday, Feb. 19.

More information about current and upcoming exhibits and other arts center programming can be found online at [www.crookedtree.org](http://www.crookedtree.org).

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