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Bringing Your News Home

gazette

December • 2003 Vol. III • No. 4



Danielle Linder and partner Kristi Huddleston, of Hollywood-based firm J.D. Linder Designs, show off their unique compacts and business card boxes.

'Made In Hollywood'

Local artists create holiday gift magic



Dawn Pilpel of "iWEAR ...do you?" displays her hardware-based jewelry and accessories on a ladder with paint trays. PHOTO BY PAUL SCOTT ABBOTT.

by Paul Scott Abbott
Special to the Gazette

This holiday, why not give a gift that was made in Hollywood? With Hollywood being home to a plethora of highly original artists and artisans, from imaginative photographers to fanciful designers of jewelry and accessories, finding a super-special something that was created locally shouldn't pose too great a challenge for city shoppers, who won't have to shell out a fortune either.

"Everyone always wants to give and receive gifts that are special and unique," said Kristi Huddleston, 32, vice president of Hollywood-based J.D. Linder Designs,

"and a gift that's created in Hollywood should be extra special."

The Linder firm's creative head, Danielle Linder, also 32, said she gets inspirations for the crystal-embellished mirror compacts, pillboxes, purse hooks, business card cases and other items her company sells while meditating and practicing yoga on Hollywood Beach. Decorations include colorful hearts and peace signs hand-applied with a pattern of scores of imported stones.

Linder says she hopes to open a retail shop of her unique merchandise in downtown Hollywood sometime in 2004. For the past year, Linder, whose earlier designing efforts focused on clothing, has been selling her jewelry and accessories through such venues as the salon, spa and gift shops at the Weston Diplomat Resort and Spa, 3555 S. Ocean Drive, as well as the firm's Web site, at www.jdlinder.com.

The purse hook, dubbed a "purse pal," is one of Linder's most popular items. Selling for \$40, it features a hook with a weight on top that is handpainted



A portrait of family members' feet at the end of a bed is an example of original work by Cre8Me's Leo Reinfeld at www.cre8me.com.

and decorated with crystals. It allows a woman to hang her purse from a table's edge rather than risk the bad luck associated with putting a purse on a floor.

Linder - like other locals who strive to create unique gifts - is quick to point out that one-of-a-kind items can be custom-made.

Another local artisan, Dawn Pilpel, commented, "Pieces can be custom-made to suit anything."

Pilpel's unusual work consists of jewelry and accessories made from items found on the shelves of Home Depot at 3401 Oakwood Blvd. Many of the pieces, which start at \$28 for a pair of earrings, are embellished with jewel-ike crystals or cubic zirconia.

HOLLYWOOD GIFTS

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"I'm taking the regular and making it irregular, taking the norm and adding some spice to it, with anything you might find, taking the experience of building something and turning it into a fashion accessory," said Pilpel, whose firm goes by the trademarked name of "iWEAR ...do you?"

"People have always told me I'm nuts," she said. "Now, I've taken those nuts and put them to good use."

Linder and Pilpel are among artisans who also regularly sell their creations at gift shows at local schools, places of worship and businesses.

Carole Shannon, receptionist at Hair Industry, 2000 Harrison St., the site of a recent show in which both Linder and Pilpel participated, commented, "We have so many creative people here in Hollywood, and we are happy to help them share their creations."