

New. Handmade.[®]

NYIGF Product Preview

by Traci L. Suppa

The ocean. Old family photos. Flamenco. Designers find inspiration from surprising sources. The result? These fine, handcrafted products – which are just some of the new resources you'll find this winter in the Handmade[®] division of the New York International Gift Fair[®] (NYIGF[®]). This extensive, juried selection of cross-category handcrafted items returns Saturday, January 28, through Wednesday, February 1, 2012, to New York's Javits Center.

Two distinct product sections, classifying artisans by process and provenance, spotlight superior design and craftsmanship. *Handmade Designer Maker[®]* showcases 340 limited-production makers – across all categories and in all media – from around the world. *Handmade Global Design[®]* features 135 international resources which combine sophisticated design with traditional artisanal techniques.

Come to the winter market to learn about the inspiration behind these objects d'art, wearables, personal accessories, furnishings and home décor, and much more.

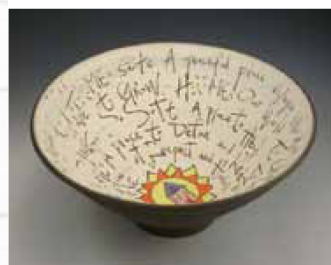
Vibrant Vessels

Vases by Art of Fire

No molds are used – or needed – in the creation of these contemporary pieces, uniquely designed and free-blown in the off-hand technique. Foster Holcombe, Todd Hansen, and Josh Ries perform every step of the glassmaking process themselves in their Maryland studio. Each piece is made with a degree of skill and attention to detail that cannot be approached in mass production. artoffire.com



"Home" Bowl by ZPOTS



Noelle VanHendrick and Eric Hendrick combine pottery with original poetry to create soulful, one-of-a-kind clay vases, bowls, cups, platters, dream vessels, chalices, buckets, and buttons. Their designs reflect an interest in the beauty of function, and consideration of how an object contributes to the space in which it exists. The "Home" bowl is lined with warm phrases like "A Place of Respect and Honor." In 2012, wearable poetry will be introduced through a new jewelry line. zspots.com



Yellow Birch Burl Bowl by Stinson Studios

Providing a taste of the wilderness in a home setting, Stinson Studios has been sustainably working with wood in Canada for 30 years, producing both functional – and timeless – pieces.



"Challenging economic times evoke a reflexive desire for heirlooms," reflects Jesse Stinson. In January, a new line of birch bowls will debut, along with serving and dip boards. Yellow birch is a new material they are experimenting with; they bury it in wet shavings to induce coloring. stinsonstudios.ca

Panache in Personal Accessories

"La Camisa" Handbag by Wendy Stevens



Wendy Stevens designs her own sheet metals, evidence of her dedication to new and distinctive looks in handbag design. Since 1983, she has made modern handbags of stainless steel with leather and metal components. The steel provides strength, form, and longevity, and the leather makes them friendly and functional. This design sports one of her new color finishes, which also include charcoal and black. In January, look for her new iPad case. wendystevens.com

Dragonheart Vermont Socks by Solmate Socks

Lisa Flood doesn't mind being known as the "Sock Lady." Her multi-patterned and colorfully mismatched socks have won over adults and children, who appreciate the quality in her handmade designs. Her choice of colors, knitting patterns, and product names express her inspiration from nature, and appreciation of the environment. Recycled cotton is her "go-to" material. New for 2012: mittens. Made from recycled cotton, nylon, and Lycra, they will be available in assorted colors. socklady.com



Black Clutch by Sarah Oliver Handbags

Offering signature designs with felted wool, Oliver has found an appreciative market for her collection of handbags, particularly the clutch. She takes cues from the styles found in old family photos, and combines this inspiration with current color trends.

"I want the styles to work with our diverse and growing customer base," she says. Oliver will be introducing an iPhone case in eight spring colors, including citron, sapphire, and prune. The palette will carry through a new line of clutches and shoulder bags. saraholiverhandbags.com

Eco-Friendly Eye Appeal



American Souvenir Collection No. 03 by Dolan Geiman, Inc.

With design inspirations emanating from vintage Americana landscape, Dolan Geiman creates "Rural Chic" contemporary art with a southern accent. Produced from salvaged wood, found objects, and other recycled materials, his eco-friendly artwork reflects his enthusiasm in the handmade movement. "Every day, creators are proffering products that help consumers choose sustainably produced, handmade products and integrate them into their daily lives." Geiman is responding to retailer requests for more rustic mixed-media work, so look for new collections at NYIGF featuring a unique set of "upcycled" materials. dolangeiman.com

"La Espera" by Manuel Ferreiro

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"In a day more and more mechanic and electronic, people have a great need for the handmade... just to remind us we are humans," muses Mexico City-based artist Manuel Ferreiro. His sculpture – handmade entirely of recycled bronze – is purposely compact. His pieces are easy to relate to, to contemplate, and to touch. While music – classical, tango, flamenco – is a frequent inspiration, this soon-to-debut piece was inspired by a blizzard in Central Park. manuelferreiro.com



Macana Wood Watch by Ecowrist

"Our inspiration for design is using sustainable materials to create a fusion of styles where indigenous meets classical," says David Gandy. With his wife and partner MarQuerite Hamden, they design time pieces – made in the Amazon of South America – as functional, wearable art. They are handcrafted from materials such as downed trees, bamboo, tagua nut, reed, acheera seeds, coconut, and wood, with soft leather straps. ecowrist.com



Design-Driven Décor

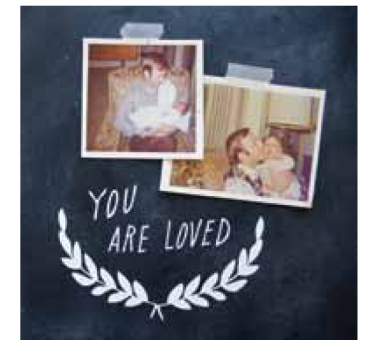
Lucky Mosaic Lamp by Ugone & Thomas

"Happy colors and motifs are a must to bring a little sunshine inside," insists Justin Thomas. Along with designer Janna Ugone, they strive to break from neutral interior design trends concurrent with economically challenging times. A fresh new collection of industrial modern lighting, accent tables, and wall décor includes this table lamp with a steel stemmed base detailed with rivets. Decorative pulls and finials adorn recycled mill wood in rich espresso tones. jannaugone.com



Magnolia Garland Decal by Shanna Murray

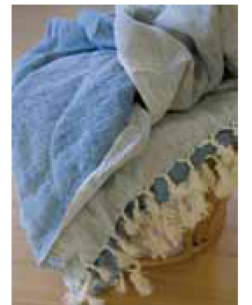
A self-described artist and optimist, Murray introduced her line of illustrated decals just over a year ago, and they've been building buzz ever since. Made of ultra-thin vinyl, they give the appearance of hand-painted images or tidings on walls and windows. Taking inspiration from nature, she will introduce a spring 2012 collection of garlands, a tromp l'oeil mirror kit, growth charts, and an expanded window decal line. shannamurray.com



Inspiring International Resources

"Crestone" Throw by SLOWCOLOR

A cooperative of handloom weavers in India create these linen throws using centuries-old weaving and natural fabric-dyeing techniques. They use manually powered spinning wheels and handlooms and fabric dyes made of leaves, flowers, roots, and minerals. The blue seen here is created from indigo tinctoria, goat dung, palm suga, and wheat husk. In 2012, look for new colors and patterns, as well as double Ikat products. slowcolor.com



Poppy Slippers by HWD Felt

These slippers begin as pieces of durable handmade felt from 100-percent wool, which are then sculpted by artisans in Nepal. In 1996, Lesley Hansard and Rebecca Welsh began a relationship with the workshop to create high-quality, unique pieces of decorative and functional art. Their designs are inspired by nature, gardening, animals, and the ocean. New products to be introduced next year: felt hats, new bag and slipper designs, and wearables. hwdfelt.com



Horn Earrings by emiLime handcrafted

Being technique-focused, Emily Green seeks out artisans in Peru working with new materials for inspiration and design ideas. Her classic line of hats, scarves, gloves, and wraps are handmade for the modern "conscionista" with high-quality, natural materials such as alpaca and sheep wool. Bull horn has been incorporated into her knitted designs, and also takes center stage in a new jewelry line. emilimehandcrafted.com

