

LOVE FOR LOCAL

Thinking of what to get for a Christmas gift exchange? Support our local makers and artisans by purchasing something from them.

Festivities may be limited this season, but that doesn't mean we have to forego gift-giving. This year, why not consider doing your gift shopping with local artisans? These not only make for unique and thoughtful presents, but also help to support the local economy and arts scene, which have been hit hard by the pandemic this year.

We've rounded up 12 of our favourite artisans to shop from. There's something for everyone, whether your intended recipient is a foodie, nature lover, or crafter. Most of these gifts can be easily mailed or delivered, so you can make sure your recipient gets them even if you can't meet them in person.



PERSONALISED HOME DECOR

For personalised decor, look no further than Urban Li'l. They're able to craft just about anything from laser-engraved custom glass baubles to a Christmas wreath with a plywood name cutout. The collection also includes personalised acrylic cutout quotes, unique letter boards, and a pastel fabric decal collaboration with stylist Priscilla Tan of Styledbypt. A lead time of at least two weeks is required for custom orders, though, so plan ahead if you intend to give it as a gift.

📍 The Christmas collection retails from \$16 at www.urbanlil.com, and @urbanlil on Instagram.

TEAS AND TEAWARE

Tea is always a good bet when it comes to gifts – it lasts years without expiring, offers comfort, and is lightweight enough to be mailed if you don't have the opportunity to gift it in person this season. They're also an aesthetically pleasing gift if you pick a blooming tea like Kindred Teas' Blessings, which unfurls in hot water to reveal a beautiful bouquet. The Kindred Teas range also includes flavours like Ispahan, a macaron-inspired blend with lychee, blackberry and rose, and Pandan & Butterfly Pea, inspired by local flavours.

📍 Tea canisters retail from \$18 at www.kindredteas.com, and @kindredteas on Instagram.



PERSONALISED STAMPS

Stationery lovers will appreciate the handcrafted custom stamps by Baisimu. You'll be able to order a custom stone seal of a Chinese character or a rubber stamp of just about anything, including a couple's names, a drawing of a building, or a sketch of a pet – a perfect gift for a pet parent! These are all made by hand, so expect a lead time of about three weeks or so.

📍 Custom stamps retail from \$10 at www.baisimu.sg, and @baisimu on Instagram.



CANDLES, ROOM SPRAYS, AND ESSENTIAL OILS

Hush Candle's annual Holiday Collection includes two new limited-edition scents for those who love clean, crisp fragrances: the Cinnamon Nutmeg Essential Oil Candle and the Christmas Woods Room Spray. Their range includes a host of other items like roll-ons, essential oil burners, and even hand sanitisers – great for door gifts if you're hosting a party.

📍 The Holiday Collection retails from \$4 for a hand sanitiser at www.hushcandle.com, and @hushcandle on Instagram.



SUSTAINABLE KNITTED AND CROCHETED GOODS

Give the gift of a sustainable lifestyle with handcrafted items from Byiroiro. Their reusable facial rounds, coasters, and soap saver sacks are woven with natural, sustainable flax and eco-cotton yarn, while household items like kitchen sponges are created from hemp. These can be cut up and put in the compost after they reach the end of their lifespan (usually three to six months), generating zero plastic waste.

📍 The collection retails from \$8 for a set of two reusable facial rounds at www.byiroiro.com, and @byiroiro on Instagram. ➡

ARTISANAL JAMS AND BUTTERS

Together with artist Soh Ee Shaun and chef Dylan Ong of The Masses restaurant, design studio MAKE + MERRY has created MAKE + MERRY Magic Kit 1.0, a bundle of artisanal jams and butters that makes the perfect gift for a foodie. Each bundle contains Strawberry & Rhubarb Jam, Banana & Peckham Pear Brulee, Truffle Butter, and Umami Butter, together with a premium cotton fabric wrap designed by Soh Ee Shaun. Part of the proceeds will go to the Children's Wishing Well, too, so you'll be spreading extra cheer this festive season.

📍 The MAKE + MERRY Magic Kit 1.0 retails from \$36 for the mini series at www.makemerrystudio.com.



PRESERVED FLOWERS COASTER KIT

Crafters will enjoy the Preserved Flowers Coaster Kit by local design studio Mylin Design Co. The do-it-yourself kit includes two acrylic pieces, preserved flowers in a colour scheme of your choice, a white marker, and botanical drawing templates that you can use to design your very own personalised coaster. It makes a great project for parents and kids to do together, too!

📍 The Preserved Flowers Coaster Kit retails for \$39 at www.mylin.design, and @mylindesignco on Instagram.



HANDMADE SOAPS

Know someone who loves all things natural and handmade? Soaps by Rough Beauty might just be the thing for them. The brand was founded in 2014 but continues the practice of crafting their soaps by hand each day, using botanical ingredients such as rice bran and rosemary leaves. Their Holiday Collection includes three scents: Cedar Woods, an earthy scent with crisp notes of bergamot, Patcha Mint, featuring patchouli and mint, and Page Boy, which contains lemon and cypress notes.

📍 The Holiday Collection retails at \$28.50 at www.rough-beauty.com and @rough__beauty on Instagram.



FLORAL SUBSCRIPTION

If you have a friend or family member who loves sprucing up their home with flowers, how about gifting them a floral subscription from Fleuriste? Flowers can be sent to their doorstep on a regular schedule or any time you prefer within six months, with a minimum of two days' notice, and you'll even be able to personalise it by indicating the recipient's preferred style. The bouquets come in three sizes – petite, regular, and premium – with a minimum commitment of four to get the subscription price.



📍 The petite bouquet subscription retails from \$60 per bouquet at www.fleuriste.sg, and @fleuriste.sg on Instagram.



CHOCOLATE CUPCAKES

If your gift recipient is a chocolate lover, you can't go wrong with the Midnight Christmas Collection by ROA. The box comes with four cupcakes in mint, citrus, and original dark chocolate flavours, plus a bottle of Chocolate Midnight Magic which makes a delicious ganache that can be poured over any dessert for a punch of flavour. As a plus, no plastic is used for the decorations – just wood and eucalyptus leaves for a rustic, environmentally-friendly touch.

📍 The Midnight Christmas Collection retails for \$22.80 at www.roa.com.sg, and @roa_midnight on Instagram.

MOST OF THESE GIFTS CAN BE EASILY MAILED OR DELIVERED, SO YOU CAN MAKE SURE YOUR RECIPIENT GETS THEM EVEN IF YOU CAN'T MEET UP.

SCENTED CANDLES

Hand-poured in small batches, Sally's Room candles are crafted from soy wax and anti-smoke cotton wicks. They come in two sizes – mini and medium, which offer about 20 hours and 40 hours of burn time respectively. Popular fragrances include Sake, which is a refreshing peach scent, and Bed of Roses, which will make your home smell like an English summer garden.

📍 The collection retails from \$15 for a mini soy candle at www.sallysroom-sg.com, and @sallysroom on Instagram.



PERSONALISED TEA GIFT SET

For a personal touch, how about getting your gift recipient's name engraved by hand? Kaelligraphy, a local calligraphy artist, is collaborating with teahouse Antea Social to produce personalised tea gift sets this festive season. The box includes a hand-engraved double-walled glass mug with a bamboo lid and teaspoon, together with six Antea Social pyramid tea bags in two bestselling flavours (Lychee Oolong and Kyoho Grape Oolong), as well as a personalised gift card. It's ready to gift, so you won't even have to wrap it up.

📍 The personalised tea gift set retails for \$45 at @kaelligraphy.sg on Instagram. ■

text MELODY BAY