


**ON WEDNESDAY
TIPS FOR BAKING
AND DECORATING
HOLIDAY COOKIES**

ART



Photographer Greg Davis took this image in Kenya while on a project with Austin charity Well Aware. CONTRIBUTED

Find the art you want at the Armadillo Christmas Bazaar

You can't get more eclectic than the offerings at the annual Austin event.

By Michael Barnes
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From humble church bazaars scattered across the region to the giant Armadillo Christmas Bazaar at the Palmer Events Center, there are plenty of arts, crafts, books, clothes, music and other items available to give as gifts or to upgrade your living circumstances.

To give the holiday shopper a better sense of the variety at the eclectic Armadillo, where live musical acts keep the browsers in the spirit, we offer a sampling of five artists who ably represent our city's creative class.

Greg Davis

A former tech worker and founding member of the Austin Center for Photography, Davis has traveled the world taking pictures and making movies. He has been designated a National Geographic Creative Photographer.

After attending Kumbh Mela, a mass spiritual pilgrimage in India, he made a film titled "Cloth Paper Dreams." After the 2016 Armadillo Christmas Bazaar, he went back to India on a quest to find a holy man he had photographed years before during Kumbh Mela. He documented that journey with photography and a new film, "The Man from Mathura" (not yet released).

Davis first began visiting Austin in 1969, the year that he first

Bazaar continued on D6

DIGITAL SAVANT MICRO



RearViewSafety's Wireless Backup Camera System is an example of a gadget you can add to a vehicle to get features you're likely to find in a newer car. CONTRIBUTED

Rearview cameras and other features you can add to older vehicles

If you've been coveting some of the tech features you'd typically find in newer cars but you're determined to hang on to an older vehicle you love, you can split the difference with some smart aftermarket upgrades.

For instance, I get a lot of use out of my car's built-in rearview camera: It ensures I won't run over a neighborhood cat or hit the recycling bin as I back out of the driveway. But for anywhere from \$30 to \$300, you can get a wireless, waterproof backup camera that attaches to a car and broadcasts to a dash-mounted screen.

Other car add-ons you can find online or at the electronics store?

Devices that can remote-start your car, dash cams that can record driving activity for many, many hours, and audio kits that can add Bluetooth streaming to an existing car stereo. Just shop around, be mindful of online reviews, and keep in mind that some of these add-ons may require professional installation.

In this space every week, we'll define a tech term, offer a timely tip or answer questions about technology from readers. Email ogallaga@statesman.com.

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BEST TV OF 2017



Some of 2017's best, clockwise from top left: "Twin Peaks: The Return," "Insecure," "The Young Pope" and "Big Little Lies." CONTRIBUTED BY SUZANNE TENNER, SHOWTIME; JUSTINA MINTZ, HBO; GIANNI FIORITO, HBO; HILARY BRONWYN GAYLE, HBO

'TWIN PEAKS,' 'HANDMAID'S TALE,' 'VIETNAM WAR' AND MORE

By Hank Stuever
The Washington Post

While television offered more than enough escape from the anxieties and outrages of life in 2017, it also found plenty of contextual and thematic relevance to kick around — sometimes intentional, sometimes just coincidental.

All I know is I've never had a better time doing my job, or a harder time picking my yearly favorites. Here they are:

1. "Twin Peaks: The Return" (Showtime). I couldn't have been more skeptical about letting David Lynch (and his co-creator Mark Frost) run wild for an 18-hour sequel to their groundbreaking yet befuddlingly complex 1990 series. Now I'm a believer. Some say this crazy and exquisitely realized work counts as Lynch's best film, but I claim it as a triumph for TV — surprisingly linear in its serialized plot, yet mind-blowingly spot-on in its rumination on such subjects as evil, atomic weaponry and the very nature of existence. Years from now,

museums will show it on a continuous loop.

2. "The Handmaid's Tale" (Hulu). This unforgettably chilling adaptation of Margaret Atwood's novel arrived with disturbing resonance in an American culture contending with baby-faced nationalists, presidential propaganda and threats to women's rights. In any other head space, it would simply be a terrific TV show — with a career-defining lead performance from Elisabeth Moss. In 2017, however, it was something more vital, as it seeded the story with added hints of a resistance afoot in Gilead, the theoretically fascist country once known as the USA.

3. "The Vietnam War" (PBS). Years in the making, Ken Burns and Lynn Novick's 10-part documentary series took viewers back through the many decades of diplomatic blunders that led to America's misguided war in Vietnam. Aided by innovative approaches to music and tone, the filmmakers displayed their masterful melding of history and

humanity, presenting the story in a calmly factual and thoroughly absorbing manner that is increasingly rare. Some quibbled with it, but, in the era of "fake news," it was reassuring to see a project so thoroughly devoted to sticking to the facts.

4. "Big Little Lies" (HBO). With a touch of feminist resilience for viewers who can't quite stomach "The Handmaid's Tale," this seven-episode miniseries features an unlikely assembly of heroines (played by Reese Witherspoon, Nicole Kidman, Shailene Woodley, Laura Dern and Zoe Kravitz) who are swept up in a backward-spun murder mystery (based on Liane Moriarty's novel) that takes place in a well-off coastal community. It's a moody and addictive deep-dive on relationships, class and envy.

5. "Feud: Bette and Joan" (FX). An extravagant exercise in camp and cultural excavation, "Feud" is a plate of Fancy Feast for the cattiest among us, aided

Television continued on D6



Alison Brie in "GLOW." ERICA PARISE NETFLIX

Television

continued from D1

by knockout performances from Jessica Lange and Susan Sarandon as Joan Crawford and Bette Davis, enduring one another during the filming of their 1962 sleeper hit "What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?" It wasn't only about spats and hisses — "Feud" skillfully elicited viewers' sympathy and a bit of outrage at how the industry mistreats its most talented women.

6. "Insecure" (HBO). Issa Rae and company took what was already a pretty-good dramedy and deepened it. "Insecure" both embraces and subverts

the young-woman/big-city story template, and it's not afraid of pessimistic, downbeat outcomes. At its center is a failed relationship between fictional Issa and Lawrence (Jay Ellis) that has provided some of the year's most honest scenes about heartbreak. Meanwhile, Yvonne Orji's performance as Molly, Issa's over-achieving best friend, illuminated the ways we thwart our own happiness. For all its glumness, "Insecure" retains an ebulliently hilarious and provocative tone — always great fun to watch.

7. "Better Things" (FX). The ignominy of co-creator Louis C.K.'s sexual-misconduct revelations shouldn't mar Pamela Adlon's bril-

liantly self-assured and refreshingly surly dramedy about a single mom, based loosely on her own experiences. (FX feels likewise; C.K. is no longer associated with any of the network's shows.) Like "Insecure," "Better Things" went from being a fine show to a truly excellent (and fearless) one, achieving that rare quality of making a viewer feel like part of the family. This season also gave us one of the year's funniest scenes, as Adlon's Sam fends off advances from a good friend's ex-husband (Greg Cromer) with the ultimate no-means-no-reproach.

8. "GLOW" (Netflix). Another show about women discovering their

own strength? Absolutely. Created by Liz Flahive and Carly Mensch (and executive produced by "Orange Is the New Black's" Jenji Kohan), this semi-fictional take on the mid-1980s dawn of the "Gorgeous Ladies of Wrestling" circuit could be viewed as a direct blow to the misogynistic tendencies of then and now. But mostly it's just a hoot to watch, thanks to a superb ensemble cast headed by Alison Brie as Ruth, an out-of-work actress trying too hard to please Sam (Marc Maron), a sleazoid movie director. "GLOW" has a nice fighting spirit about it and an ample supply of characters to root for — even the heels.

9. "The Young Pope" (HBO). Eleven months after it aired, I remain awestruck by Italian filmmaker Paolo Sorrentino's beautiful (if confounding) 10-part series about a dilettante American cardinal, Lenny Belardo (Jude Law, in a wickedly disciplined performance), who becomes a surprise pick for pope. With his radical reordering of protocol, Lenny, now Pope Pius XIII, alienates some and galvanizes others. Silvio Orlando is especially good as Cardinal Voiello, the Vatican's secretary of state, who belatedly sees divinity in Lenny's capricious rule. As the series builds, a sense of spiritual calm takes over, unlike anything else I watched this year (except maybe that "Left-

overs" finale).

10. "Godless" (Netflix). Yee-haw, it's a real Western (at last), featuring a broad vista of the genre's essential narrative conflicts and a particularly strong focus on the iffy morals of the 19th-century frontier. Michelle Dockery is outstanding as a determined horse-rancher who lives on the edge of a small town populated by women who all lost their husbands in a mining disaster. A showdown between a notorious bandit (Jeff Daniels) and his conflicted protege (Jack O'Connell) threatens to take the town down with it, but not if these women have anything to say about it. It's a wild and instantly compelling ride.

Bazaar

continued from D1

greeted the world.

"I was born and raised behind the pine curtain in Livingston but moved here as soon as I could in 1995," he says. "My dad's sister owned Camp Craft in the West Lake Hills area in the 1960s and '70s, when West Lake was just the Hill Country. We spent many a holiday in the hills and it's felt like home ever since."

Davis thinks the Armadillo — as it is known for short, along with its original home, the long-gone Armadillo World Headquarters — is one of the best shows of its kind in the country.

"It's finely juried," he says. "The selection of both the visual artists and musical artists are all top bill. I know there are a lot of new people moving in town, and all I gotta say is that you can't really say you are from Austin until you've visited the Armadillo Christmas Bazaar." (gregdavisphotography.com)

Daryl Howard

Howard studied traditional Japanese woodblock printmaking in Tokyo under master Hodaka Yoshida. A member of the Boston Printmakers, she applies the centuries-old Japanese art form with mixed media to modern subjects, say, tulips in the Netherlands, bluebonnets in Texas or landscapes in Portugal.

"I moved here in June of 1975 from Tokyo and never left," Howard says. "Austin is the only place I want to live and produce my work. It's energetic, creative, mindful, friendly."

To Howard, the Armadillo is an essential tradition.

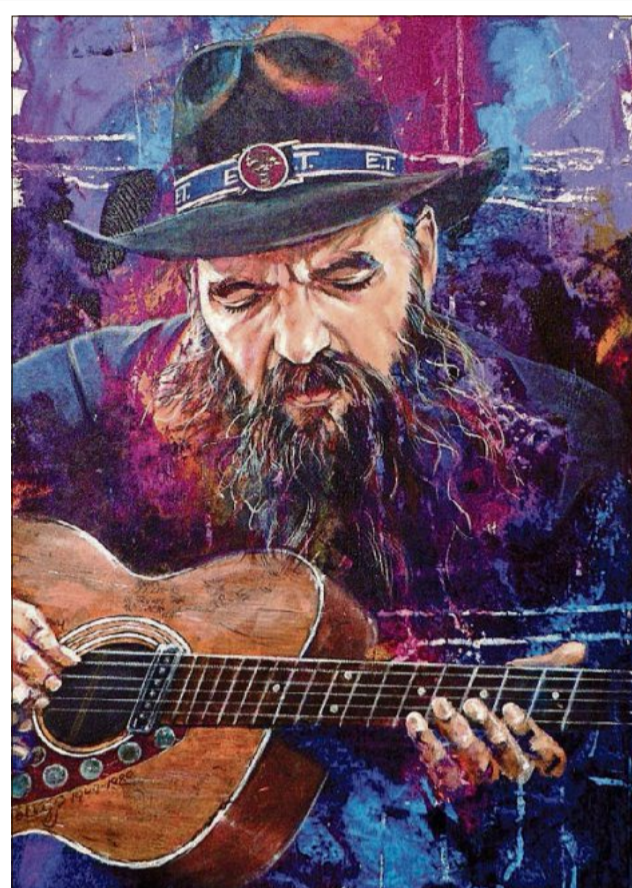
"I have participated for more than 30 years, and I continue to be amazed how this show has evolved and changed with the culture of Austin," she says. "It has all levels of art. ... I have clients now who came from all over the world to this event, as well as the newcomers to Austin and, of course, the ones who have made this event part of their family holiday tradition that they never miss." (darylhoward.com)

Robert Hurst

Widely known for his sports-, music- and Western-themed art, Hurst works with bright acrylic paints. He created the featured art for the

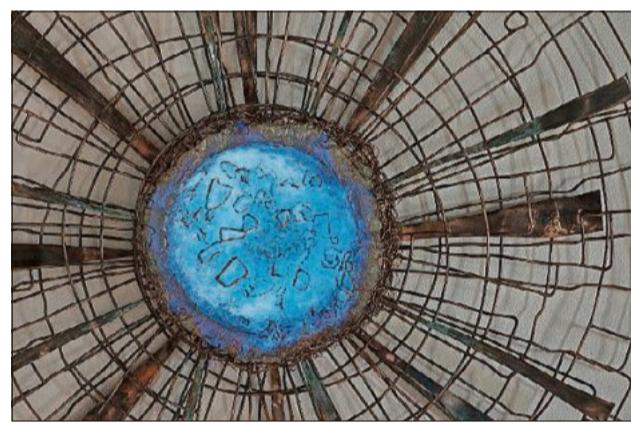


"Behind My Home I Look Through the Branches of My Life," a Japanese-style woodblock by Daryl Howard. CONTRIBUTED



"Blaze Foley" by Robert Hurst. CONTRIBUTED

ARMADILLO CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
When: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Dec. 14-24
Where: Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Road
Cost: One day pass: \$8; kids under 12 free; season passes: \$60
Information: armadillobazaar.com, 512-447-1605



"Full Moon" by Rita Marie Ross, copper sculpture with acid patina and phosphorus resin on glass, made in collaboration with resin artist Stacey Watkins. CONTRIBUTED BY BRENDA LADD

2017 Bazaar, an armadillo rendered in cool colors tiptoeing across piano keys.

Born and raised in Houston, Hurst studied medical illustration at multiple colleges and he attended the Art Institute of Houston. But's he's mostly self-taught. Early on, he worked with artist Bill Narum to create album covers and music posters for Antone's Records and Go-Go Studios.

"My uncles lived here when I was a kid, so I got to experience much of the hippiness of old Austin," he says. "Throughout high school during spring breaks I would come to Austin. I participated in the

motorcycle races during the Austin Aqua Fest. I jumped off the cliff at Hamilton Pool while I was in college. Camped out at City Park. Hung out at Hippie Hollow. Austin always had that natural energy and creativity that I craved. I came here permanently in 1985, and it's still the best move I ever made. I belong here."

He's shown art at the Armadillo for more than 20 years.

"It had a different feeling than other shows," he says. "Very familial and friendly. The artists were always who

I admired." (adamfineartist.com)

Rita Marie Ross

Ross shares an Armadillo booth as well as a creative link to another of our featured artists, Jacob Colburn. Both worked for years with late sculptor Daryl G. Colburn, Jacob's father. Ross makes woven metal sculpture and fine art jewelry. She has shown all over the area while also executing private commissions.

"I came to Austin from a

small town in northern Ohio to escape the cold and maybe find a way to make a living doing art," Ross says. "That was back in 1982. I found warmth — OK, hot! — and an incredible community of creative people that not only encourage me, but taught me the ins and outs of being an artist. I also have found Austin a city that appreciates and buys art."

Her mentor, Daryl Colburn, participated for years in the Armadillo.

"He basically introduced me to the event and (producer) Bruce (Willenzik)," Ross says. "It is a family, from being with the returning artists and musicians, to visiting with old clients and friends, as well as meeting new people. Jacob and I inherited the booth when Daryl passed six years ago. This for me is a family affair now more than ever." (ritamarieross.com)

Jacob Colburn

Trained by his father, Colburn creates metal sculpture painted with acid patinas. He also is a regular guest artist at the Thornton Road Studios.

"I was born in Austin on a cold morning in 1976 at St David's Hospital," he says. "I moved around some after, but came back here during middle school and graduated

from Travis High School. I have watched Austin change and grow huge. Austin has always had a wonderful laid-back feel. It's my hometown and I love it, traffic and all."

From an early age, Colburn tagged along with his father to art shows far and wide.

"My whole young life was setting up shows, meeting other artists and trying to trade my dad's work to them for things that I liked," he recalls. "I remember my dad showing at the Armadillo Christmas Bazaar when it was at the old Austin Opera House. I was a kid, and I remember running all around there and thinking how wonderful it was."

He joined his father's booth with his own work for four years at the Austin Convention Center before his father's death.

"Rita Marie Ross and I decided to honor my father and would still do the show that year," Colburn says. "Since then, I have been back every year, and the 'Dillo has become my family. I get to come back every year to see them for Christmas." (jacobcolburn.com)

Contact Michael Barnes at 512-445-3970 or mbarnes@statesman.com. Twitter: @outandabout

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HANDEL'S MESSIAH!

TICKETS FROM \$15
TUES, DEC 12

Austin Symphony with Chorus Austin
 Ryan Heller, conductor
 Hyde Park Baptist Church
 8:00 p.m.

The Austin Symphony once again presents its Christmas tradition, Handel's *Messiah*, accompanied by Chorus Austin for you and your family at Hyde Park Baptist Church. This will be the fourth season that the ASO has brought this performance to Hyde Park. HPBC has free parking and plenty of superb seating.

We hope you will enjoy this holiday classic and city favorite. This night of musical magic will comfort you through its familiarity and fill you with the joy of rediscovery. Let us begin your winter celebrations with a performance full of rejoicing!

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