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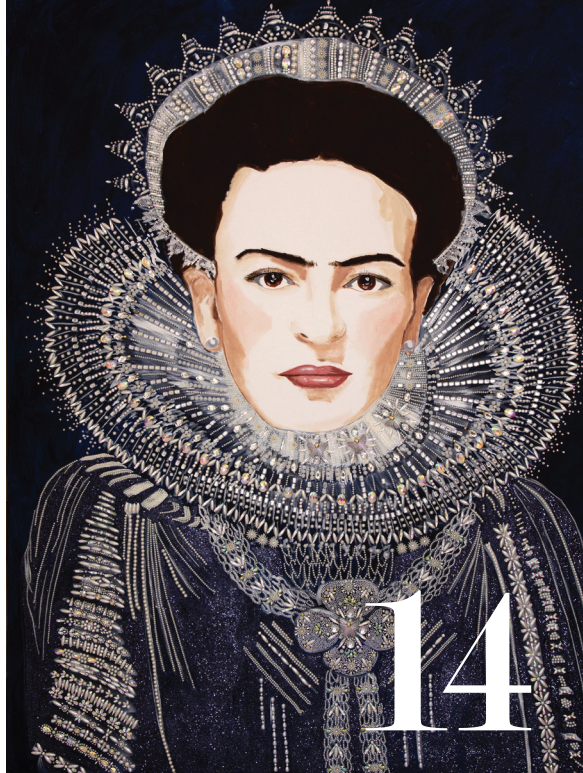
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EDITOR: KATY DANOS | DESIGNER: EMILY SUCHERMAN

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HOME | HAND TOWN | MADE

Companies owned by five local women
designing and making art here in
New Orleans.

BY KATY DANOS

New Orleans has long been a creative muse and inspiration for artists of all kinds. No other American city has such a layered and diverse cultural history, and brims with creativity quite like she does. The Big Easy excels in and celebrates all things imaginative—inventive food, beautiful architecture, and

art and music on every corner. Some say it's our European, Creole and African roots, some say it's the heat and humidity, but everyone points to the remarkable creative freedom pulsing through our neighborhoods. Our talent is literally home-grown and richly supported by natives and visitors alike. There must be something in the water.

LOGAN LEDFORD

OWNER | LOGAN LEDFORD

Logan Ledford, a minimal colorist, has been painting since she was five. In her studio in the Irish Channel, her focus is on illustration, graphic design and, of course, painting. Classically trained, Logan has a thing for happy abstraction, color blocking and thick texture. Her work on birch wood panels, canvas, oyster shells and shiny boxes is graphic, modern and bursting with color. Logan's 'color spots' series is a study in Big Easy exuberance.

The colors of New Orleans are amazing—houses, fashion, costumes, parties, it's never ending. This city is vibrant, fun, intense, but laid back, and I think my work reflects this to a T. I see my color spots as personalities or stories, each is a different vibrant person I have met in New Orleans or a hilariously unique story I've heard at a cocktail party.

LOGAN LEDFORD ART AVAILABLE AT LOGANLEDFORD.COM/SHOP



SARAH KILLEN

OWNER | SAINT CLAUDE

Sarah Killen has been making jewelry for over ten years. Her company Saint Claude, named after the Bywater street where her first studio was located, is now housed in a hundred and twenty five year old shotgun double in the Irish Channel. Sarah creates original designs in wax, favoring local flora and fauna, indigenous creatures and 18th century architectural details. She then casts them in sterling silver, brass and twenty four carat gold using the lost wax technique. Some necklaces are delicate, some rings are bold—all of her adornments reference Crescent City curiosities and antique ornamentation.

My pieces represent the duality of beauty and darkness so often found in my beloved New Orleans.



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KATHLEEN CURRIE

OWNER | SMOKE ARTISAN PERFUME CO.

Kathleen Currie handcrafts all natural unisex fragrances, body scrubs, and soy candles in small batches made from locally sourced ingredients and pure essential oils. Her company, Smoke, has been featured in Martha Stewart Weddings and Vogue. Blended by hand on a mixing palette using organic elements such as fine-grain cane sugar, lavender buds and distilled organic perfumes, Kathleen captures the sensual and intoxicating scent of New Orleans.

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CHARLOTTE HENRY

OWNER | HARLEY LONDON

Sustainable, locally sourced and milled, premium pine, red maple and cypress are the keystones to Charlotte Henry's company Harley London. With a degree in Industrial Design and an obsession with details, her hand engraved products—cuff links, coasters, journals and lapel pins—are lovingly made to stand the test of time. Born and raised Uptown and in Gentilly, Charlotte has a sleek and sophisticated vibe coupled with a definitive New Orleans twist.

It's exhilarating to create something from nature that people can wear and use in inventive ways. New Orleans has a mindset of vibrancy and is the most unique place on this planet.

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MANDY SIMPSON

OWNER | NOLA BOARDS

Native New Orleanian, Mandy Simpson, designer of homegrown chopping blocks and cheese boards at Nola Boards, the company she owns with her husband Daren Sumrow, gives each board a clever name referencing the humble foods we revere. Roux, Trinity and Sac-a-Lait—cutting boards made in their Uptown store from domestic and exotic hardwoods—are one of a kind functional art pieces and no scrap is left behind. Sanded, soaked and sealed with care, the unique wood grains and rich colors make each board warm and wonderful.

Like the idea of cutting boards that you're really making your memories on, like when you're cooking for your family. Ours are sealed with beeswax made just for us on the Westbank; fine wooden cutting boards can last years, even decades.

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DECKED OUT

The Nola Way

In New Orleans the tree goes up right after Thanksgiving and remains in place until Twelfth Night, which brings an end to the twelve days of Christmas and welcomes the carnival season. Ornaments, sparkly and elegant or whimsical and fun, celebrate family stories and histories in a magical way. Nestling a slice of the big easy in tinsel branches sends Santa an important holiday message—there's truly no place like home.

BY KATY DANOS



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ASHLEY

BAD. BOLD. & BREAKING ALL THE RULES

BY KATY DANOS | PHOTOS BY JAMES GAFFNEY



Ashley Longshore, like her bold and often rebellious pop art, is daring, over the top and in your face. She is. And like her luscious paintings of Audrey Hepburn surrounded by hummingbirds and butterflies, she's also beautiful, immensely

kind and keenly aware of the message she is sending to younger women about feminine empowerment. Gal power is surely having its moment, but Ashley has been long at work pushing the boundaries and representing. Part urban hippie and part rock star glam,

BUNNY



Ashley has a spectacular way with words and she pretty much wears her head, heart and talent on her sleeve. What you see is what you get—exuberant paintings line the walls in her bright white gallery on Magazine Street, an upcoming collaboration with the global

cosmetic company Clé de Peau Beauté features her artful package design and her first book, *You Don't Look Fat, You Look Crazy*, will be published this spring. Oh yeah—I forgot to mention part energizer bunny.



By taking iconic pop culture figures such as Kate Moss, Frida Kahlo, and Anna Wintour or luxury global brand images such as Louis Vuitton, Chanel, and Veuve Clicquot and mixing them with unexpected and potent words, Ashley dismantles preconceived notions in an instant and initiates conversations that can go in almost any direction. The paintings poke fun at consumerism, wealth, and societies' endless fascination with celebrity. The mash-ups are stunning, richly detailed and often wickedly funny. The artwork reflects her deeply felt views on the power of women and explores the endless possibilities for what that can mean. Some of the paintings are lush secret gardens of peacocks, poppies and pansies splendid with color, and dripping with sparkle and shine. Some are garish and vulgar and right to the point. All of them exalt feminine potential and strength with layers of visual commentary on beauty, sex, and power.

Ashley has been profiled and featured in almost every national magazine including *Vanity Fair*, *Fortune Magazine*, and *Elle Décor* and her collectors are worldwide. But it is in New Orleans that she loves to make her art. "This is where I feel safe and comfortable to work. New Orleans celebrates art and is fertile ground for

creativity," she explains. "And New Orleans doesn't judge. I can walk around here and I may look weird, but I'm not the weirdest and that doesn't happen in any other city." Self-taught and highly motivated, Ashley travels the globe for business meetings, installations, and art events, but she routinely finds time to mentor young artists in New Orleans and speak to students at Tulane and Louisiana State University. "I tell them that I'm proud to be here and that New Orleans makes me brave as a woman. It's a small southern city that inspires me to redefine what it means to be a female artist and businesswoman in today's world."

And New Orleans doesn't judge. I can walk around here and I may look weird, but I'm not the weirdest and that doesn't happen in any other city.

With a fierce sense of humor and an intense work ethic, it is no surprise that her artwork is gaining such notoriety as she continues to partner with fashion and design powerhouses such as Chloé and Anthropologie on everything from handbags, lampshades and furniture,



to dishware and a soon-to-launch line of home goods. As she tells college students quite candidly, “this did not happen overnight. There were many sixteen hour days, many roadblocks and if it feels ‘easy,’ you’re on the downhill, because the uphill was hard.” She lends these lectures serious street cred, because she’s as much a shrewd and savvy entrepreneur as she is an inventive artist with a truly authentic voice and mission. “I hope my greatest legacy will be that I motivated artists to represent themselves in the business world and that I empowered women to define themselves. What makes you feel different is what makes you unique. That’s your greatest strength. Embrace it!”



Holiday PARTY LOOKS

PHOTOS BY JAMES GAFFNEY
STYLED BY EMILY ENGBERG + NICOLE KAITZ



- 1 Blue Embroidery Dress | \$485 | HEMLINE METAIRIE
- 2 Lucy Clutch Wallet | \$39 | GAE TANA'S
- 3 Gold Bangle with Rhinestones | \$22 | Thin Double Cuff | \$18 | GAE TANA'S
- 4 Telsa Navy Heel | \$116 | GAE TANA'S
- 5 Dance of the Daffodils Earrings | \$189 | HAUTE BOUTIQUE
- 6 Soulmate Off White Blazer | \$395 | HAUTE BOUTIQUE
- 7 Black Sequin Clutch | \$65 | HAUTE BOUTIQUE
- 8 Black Fernanda V-Neck Top | \$149 | HAUTE BOUTIQUE
- 9 Ivanka Woven Pant | \$147 | HAUTE BOUTIQUE
- 10 Studded Suede Strappy Heels | \$175 | HEMLINE METAIRIE



- 6 Red Layered Bead Necklace | \$45 | HAUTE BOUTIQUE
- 7 Olive Suede Mini Dress | \$315 | HAUTE BOUTIQUE
- 8 Michael Kors Gold Clutch | \$98 | DILLARD'S
- 9 Sam Edelman Sable Suede Over-the-Knee Boots | \$250 | DILLARD'S



- 1 Mini Dress with Floral Detail | \$372 | HEMLINE METAIRIE
- 2 Navy Tassel Earrings | \$38 | VEAUX LUXE
- 3 Acrylic and Gold Chain Bag | \$42 | VEAUX LUXE
- 4 Pom Pom Keychain | \$12 | VEAUX LUXE
- 5 Steve Madden Stecy Black Heels | \$79.99 | DILLARD'S

Joy!



Cheer!

6 Watercolor Sheath Dress | \$394 | HEMLINE METAIRIE

7 Taupe Lace-Up Block Heel | \$48 | VEAUX LUXE



- 1 Shiny Navy Rebel Jacket | \$398 | HAUTE BOUTIQUE
- 2 White Beaded Necklace with Brooch | \$285 | HAUTE BOUTIQUE
- 3 Ivory Satin Crepe Top | \$245 | HAUTE BOUTIQUE
- 4 Shiny Navy Skinny Pant | \$209 | HAUTE BOUTIQUE
- 5 Nude Cut-Out Block Heel | \$48 | VEAUX LUXE



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photo by Bryce Ell

WRAPPED UP

5 LOCAL STYLEMAKERS SHOW US THE ART OF THE WRAP

BY KATY DANOS | PHOTOS BY JAMES GAFFNEY

Presentation matters and a beautifully wrapped gift, complete with personal touches, plays a starring role in the joy of holiday giving. Thoughtfully choosing that perfect little something for a friend or family member and carefully enclosing it in tissue and paper so it can't be immediately seen, amps up the anticipation factor for the recipient. It makes it special. Let's face it, suspense and the surprise element are a major part of the fun. Whether your gift is simply wrapped in brown Kraft paper and tied with twine, or bedazzled with fancy paper and glittery ribbons, it's that extra step that creates a memorable impression.

Having the basic supplies and tools on hand make wrapping presents a piece of cake. Designate a drawer or two in your utility room or space in a spare closet to stash bits of ribbon, paper, and bows that you can collect all year long. There are great see-through storage containers and rolling carts made expressly for this purpose. Organize your tape, scissors, gift cards and tissue so you'll be ready to go when the crunch is on. It's always handy to have a couple of bright markers, metallic paint pens and a circle whole punch in your bag of tricks. Ideas for the actual "wrap" run the gamut from recycled newspaper print and heavy paper grocery bags to hand marbled sheets of paper and lacquered rolls of wrap in every hue imaginable. Even fabric or wallpaper remnants or children's handmade art can be part of the presentation and even part of the treat. Get creative. For music lovers use sheet music, for someone with





wanderlust use maps and, if you're really crafty, you can create your own whimsical decorations using plain scraps of paper that are sure to make your gift unique.

Embellishments—now that's the really fun part. Inventive ways to tie ribbon, attach gift cards and affix clever finishing touches are unlimited. A natural look using raffia, fresh sprigs, or pine cones is always a favorite. Candy canes, small ornaments, elegant wired satin, or organza ribbon is traditional and classic. Here's the opportunity to spend a little time personalizing your wrap in ways that are sure to make the recipient smile. "It's almost too pretty to unwrap" are words to make your heart sing!



RON CARRIER

LIFESTYLE BLOGGER | THE UPTOWN ACORN
FEATHERED NEST



A spectacular array of stunning packages in Ron Carrier's signature magical forest-style features sophisticated combinations of humble Kraft paper, fancy organza ribbon, and just the right amount of matte gold leaf. Highly textural and densely detailed, the gifts are adorned with acorns, pods, and feathers mixed with antlers and coordinating ribbon. Ron loves to make the wrap "part of the actual gift" and the dapper real bow-ties made from real feathers are a fantastic masculine touch.

I love to gift wrap. Beautifully wrapped gifts make a memorable impression—an important part of giving. I've always been fascinated by presentation, so gift wrapping allows me to share my unique designs with others. I like to use natural elements and sculptural shapes and I think of each as a little work of art.

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KATIE KOCH

SHOP OWNER | KATIE KOCH HOME
GLOBAL AND HANDMADE



For Katie Koch, it's all about bold color combinations, funky pattern, and interesting handmade accents. She wraps gifts in two marbled paper boxes that are definitely meant to be saved and ties them together with a wide peacock-blue grosgrain ribbon for additional texture. A bright yellow paper origami crane tops the package delivering a bright whimsical pop of color.

I definitely like to hand make something special like an unexpected topper for my gift wrap. It's easy, not expensive and reminds me of childhood crafts. It definitely shows extra care when you take time to make a little something yourself to add to the gift. It's the fun part of wrapping for sure.

MARBLEIZED PAPER BOXES AND WRAPPING PAPER AVAILABLE
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BRYAN BATT

SHOP OWNER | HAZELNUT

TOP THIS



Very basic but heavy wrapping paper provides the perfect base for Bryan Batt's flights of fancy that range from splendid, to grand, to comical and over the top. Part costume, part set design, his creations feature layers of ribbon on top of more ribbon and stacks of whimsical flourishes easily found at a good craft and sundries shop. Think a little bit of haute couture meets a lot of the cat in the hat.

I recall a project in the 1st grade that involved wrapping a gift and my imagination took over. It was theatrical and creative and my teacher was very encouraging. I've wrapped that way ever since, moving from Elmer's paste to a hot glue gun. I collect bits of ribbon, buttons and beads all year long and when it's time to wrap, I bring the containers out and go to town. No two ever look the same.

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SALLIE JONES

SHOP OWNER | SCRIPTURA

ROYALLY RED



Sallie Jones stacks several boxes wrapped in heavy crimson glittered paper from India. Graphic and bold, her wrap makes a beautiful statement with an abundance of coordinating satin ribbon. A handmade crown fashioned with a bit of leftover paper and a foil printed custom monogram card tucked at the top of the package is the personal touch that makes this presentation so perfect.

Having a wrapped package reflect what's inside the box is important to me. The paper can complement the gift by using similar colors or textures; stacked boxes with various patterned and solid paper gives a luxurious presentation. Everyone delights in opening a package and I like to make mine unique using extra bits of paper as fun accents. You can make your gift perfect with your creativity and love. It is not about the cost!

WRAPPING PAPER AND GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE AT SCRIPTURA
5423 MAGAZINE STREET | NEW ORLEANS
SCRIPTURA.COM



ALEXA PULITZER

DESIGNER | ALEXA PULITZER

SIMPLY REGAL



Alexa Pulitzer's wrap is defined by elegance and simplicity. Royal elephants of her own design grace a package with a champagne double faced satin ribbon and a matching custom gift card. Luxury embellishments, fine paper, original art and understated charm make Alexa's work the epitome of gift wrap chic.

I enjoy wrapping a gift for someone I love. The actual act embodies qualities in life that I appreciate – meditation, precision, creativity and generosity of heart.

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perlis.com



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AND CUFFLINKS
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2016 HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

For

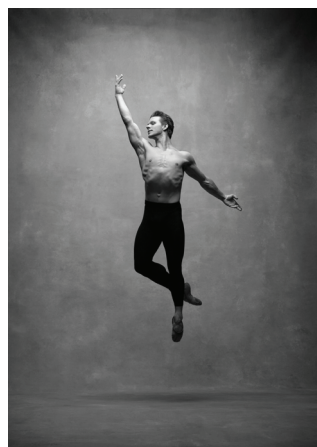
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2016 HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

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KIDS

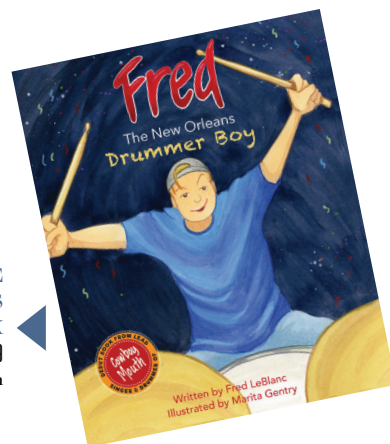


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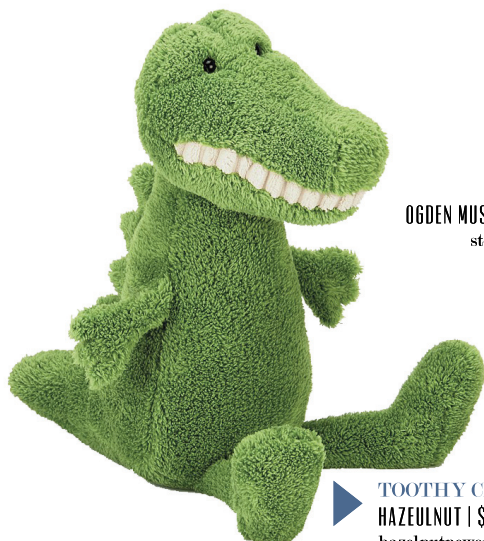


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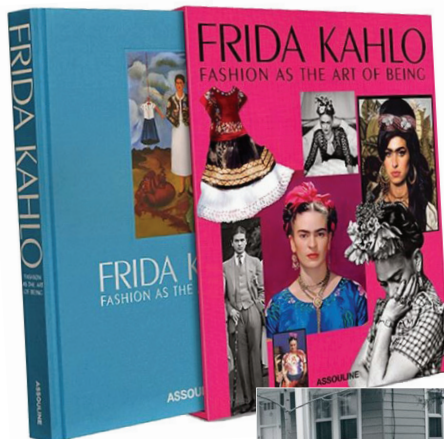


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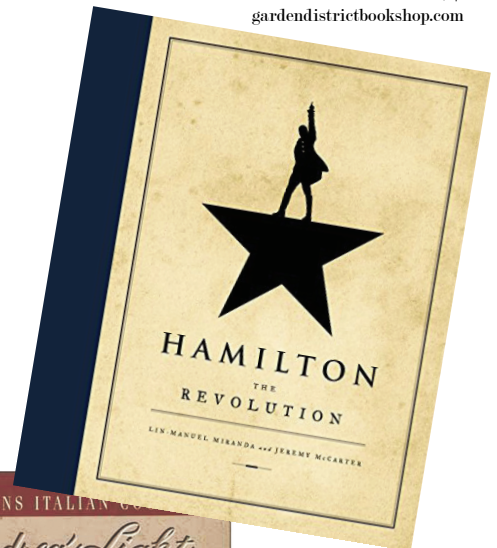
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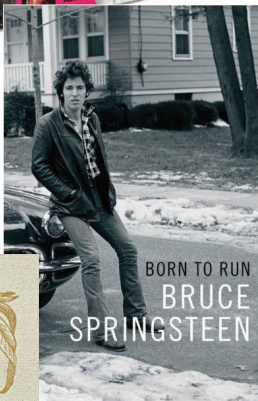
FRIDA KAHLO, FASHION AS THE ART OF BEING
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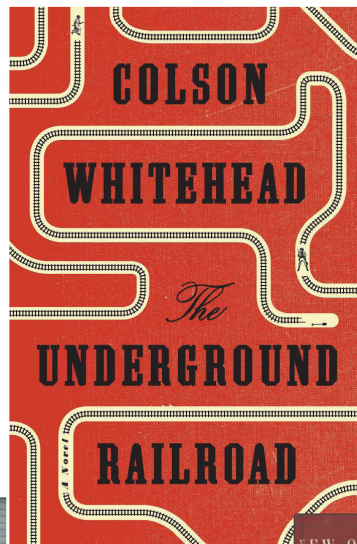
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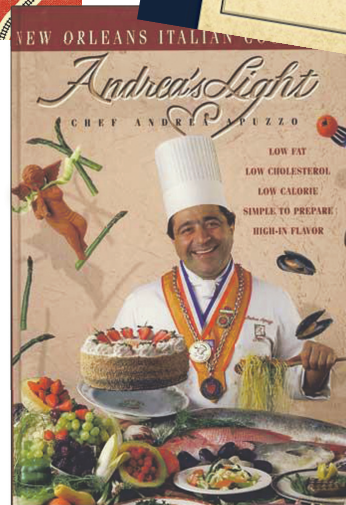
BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN,
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OCTAVIA BOOKS | \$32.50
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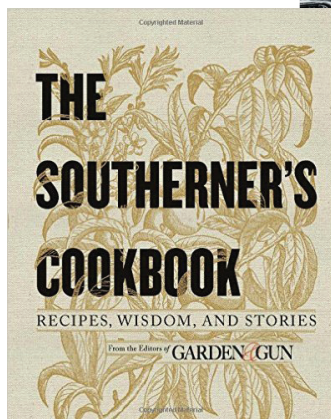
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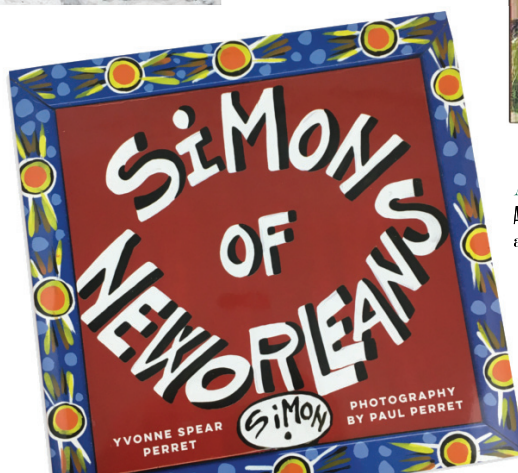
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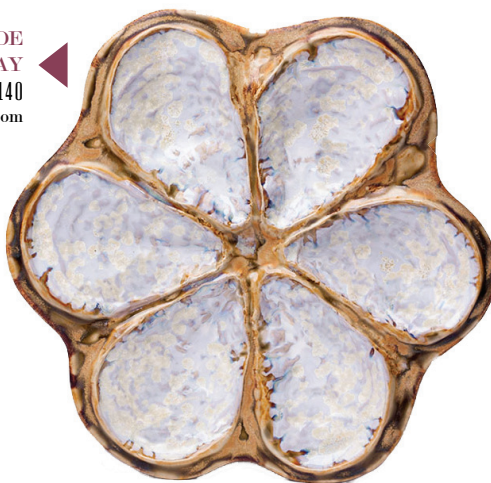
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FELINE FAD

Purrfect Style

The feline trend is here to stay. With Fall's Broadway revival of the musical *Cats* and all of the major fashion houses sending kitty-cat prints pouncing down the runways, it's a cats gone wild season and the world's second most popular pet has clawed her way to the top. Domesticated cats go as far back as ancient Egypt and with retractable claws, quick reflexes, and powerful vision, it's clear to see how the furry feline is having a historical moment. Dominating the catwalks and popping up in the cagiest of ways, this new breed of pussy-cat has its paws everywhere including home décor, haute couture, and handbags. Fierce, frisky, and just about purrfect, the allure of the cat is qualified and has captured our imagination.

BY KATY DANOS



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TAKE IT TO THE TOP

'TIS THE SEASON FOR
FAMILY AND FRIENDS

THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Hanukkah, the Jewish holiday, commemorates the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem with eight days and nights of kindling candles, exchanging small gifts, and feasting on traditional sweets. At the center of the holiday is the nine-branched Menorah which is lighted each night at sundown as blessings are said. Children play Dreidel, a simple spinning-top game. Dreidels are marked with Hebrew letters that represent "a great miracle is happening here" and often become cherished family heirlooms.

Family traditions, religious holidays, and the sharing of meals and treats is what makes December the most magical month of the year. We bring out the family china, polish up the silver, decorate with symbolic colors and décor, reliving the charm of childhood and sharing the joy of the season. Candlelight, cherished recipes, and blessings and songs handed down through the generations make gathering with friends and family all the more splendid and memorable. Presents are great fun to give and receive, but the time spent with those we love playing games, telling stories, and laughing around the table are the lasting gifts of the holidays.

BY KATY DANOS | PHOTOS BY JAMES GAFFNEY

TABLETOP DESIGN BY KATY DANOS AND TOM CIANFICHI



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NUTCRACKER SUITE

Figurative nutcrackers have been popular Christmas decor dating back to the 19th century when German toy makers carved wooden soldiers, kings, and knights that could actually crack the nuts from children's Christmas stockings. These large-mouthed, lavishly painted figures, now mostly for decoration, conjure visions of Sugar Plum Fairies, Dancing Mice and Clara with her Nutcracker Prince from Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Ballet*—a beloved seasonal classic.



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MERRY AND BRIGHT

The best part of Christmas is having family and friends over to share in the festivities and fun. Make it easy and stress-free by hosting a relaxed open house on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning. A cookie exchange, eggnog party, or holiday brunch is a great way to entertain the little ones while adults put finishing touches on Santa's stash and share the excitement of opening gifts.





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YULETIDE CHEER

Holiday foods can be prepared ahead and treats can be added to the feast as neighbors and grandparents arrive bearing gifts. 'Tis the season for hot cocoa, milk punch and mimosas, corn and crab soup, gumbo, and heavenly ham—all delicacies that can be served as a buffet. Spend your time singing carols, trimming the tree, and enjoying your guests. This once a year occasion is all about making memories that last a lifetime.





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A DAY IN THE STUDIO WITH AMANDA STONE TALLEY

BY KATY DANOS

PHOTOS BY JAMES GAFFNEY • KATY DANOS • AMANDA STONE TALLEY GALLERY



On a beautiful tree lined corner on Magazine Street in the Garden District, Studio Amanda Talley looks at first glance like one of those super chic art galleries often found on Newbury Street in Boston or Sloane Street in London. But mixed in with all the posh signage on the front door, is a hand written sticky note that makes this shop decidedly New Orleans and totally Amanda. “Must love dogs” is one of those casually confident personal statements that the Big Easy not only loves, but nurtures. Amanda is known for her abstract expressionistic art which is organic, emotional, and very energetic. It comes as no surprise that four rescued animals are lounging or playing side by side with her stunning paintings, fine antiques, and rolls of fabric and wallpaper made from her original designs. It's part of her sensibility and you can feel light and generosity exuding from her works.

Amanda took an oil painting class in sixth grade and that's when she knew. She knew she wanted to be an artist and she's been painting ever since. At

Mary Baldwin College she studied studio painting and at Savannah College of Art and Design she received a masters of fine arts degree in painting. Originally from Baton Rouge, Amanda headed straight to New Orleans after completing her academic training to live and work in what she calls a “very welcoming artistic environment.” This is where she likes to make art; she’s been painting on Magazine Street for seventeen years to be exact and her creativity is boundless. Right out of school, Amanda worked part-time with Gerri Bremermann, the grande dame of interior design in New Orleans. She worked in the firm’s extensive fabric library and she beams when she describes all that she experienced under such talented tutelage. “I touched hundreds of fabrics ranging from very humble linens to the priciest Italian silks, learning all the while about texture, fine quality and the endless possibilities of fabric combinations.” It is clear that Amanda absorbed more than the obvious in such an enriching environment and she is a strong proponent of apprenticeships and hard work. Her advice for young artists is simple and direct: “get into school, gain life experiences, work in the field, and most of all, just start doing it.”

Eight years later, Amanda opened her own small studio on Magazine Street and designers and clients from all over the country flocked to her gallery. She soon needed bigger quarters. Her current studio and gallery is a living artistic environment housed in a beautiful 1840’s masonry pharmacy building. The space has the kind of inherent soul found only in New Orleans. Painted white brick and old wood floors, interior rooms painted in several of Amanda’s signature colors, and a charming garden and courtyard create a perfect artist’s atelier filled with inspiration at every turn. She paints in a back garage and studio and hangs her work in a sunny front gallery. She also has her fabric showroom and sewing workshop on-sight so she can keep a watchful eye over her latest offerings—children’s clothing, exquisite bedding, and



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THE HELIS FOUNDATION



handmade clutches all made up in her fantastic prints. Her shop is as vibrant and uplifting as she is and visiting her gallery is a visual and tactile feast.

Get into school, gain life experiences, work in the field, and most of all, just start doing it.

It would be very difficult to choose a favorite painting. The canvases are vibrant, commanding, and super energetic. Amanda describes herself as an "action painter" and her work is based on emotion and experiences. Her works are indeed action packed. They are rhythmic and fluid, line and color driven, and filled with the intensity of circular motion. Her thoughts on color include: "more," on using acrylics: "they dry faster," and on inspiration: "it's everywhere." "New Orleans is over brimming with natural vitality and I'm fueled by the creative scene here," she explains as one of her pups, Phil the store greeter, makes his way over to potential customers. It's a happy place filled with dynamic paintings—large and small—and wallpaper, stationary, and laptop covers all in delightful celebration of her original prints and eye for fine detail and color.



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A champagne bottle with a gold foil-wrapped cork is chilling in a silver bucket. The bucket is filled with crushed ice and three large, shiny gold Christmas ornaments. The background is a soft-focus bokeh of warm, golden lights and festive decorations, creating a celebratory atmosphere.

CHEERS TO A NEW YEAR

SETTING THE SCENE FOR 2017

New Year's Eve marks the last day of the calendar year and traditionally the night is filled with celebratory countdowns to midnight. From formal bashes with festive party dresses, champagne and sparklers, to blowouts complete with fireworks and noisemakers, to gathering around the television to watch the ball drop in Times Square, ringing in the New Year



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with your nearest and dearest is a reflective goodbye to last year and an optimistic hello to the new one. Bubbly and caviar, confetti and streamers, rounds of Auld Lang Syne with kisses at midnight welcome in the New Year with the greatest of cheer. Here's to 2017—to health and happiness for all!



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TO HEALTH AND
HAPPINESS FOR ALL!"

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WHERE TO BE SEEN ON NYE

• ZOO YEAR'S EVE AT THE AUDUBON ZOO - 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM

A kid-friendly New Year's celebration featuring music, games, prizes, and a countdown to Noon. The event is free for Audubon members or included with Zoo admission.

• LOUISIANA CHILDREN'S MUSEUM NEW YEAR'S EVE COUNTDOWN

9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Family fun with music, arts & crafts, and a New Year's countdown. Tickets are available via the museum for \$10 per person

• ALLSTATE SUGAR BOWL NEW YEAR'S EVE PARADE - 3:30 PM

Head to the intersection of Elysian Fields Avenue and Decatur Street to catch this Mardi Gras-style parade with floats, bands, and more. The parade will proceed through the French Quarter, past Allstate Fan Fest, and wrap up at Canal Street.

• JACKSON SQUARE CELEBRATION

For an annual tradition with some New Orleans flair, make your way to Jackson Square in the hours leading up to midnight for live music, a view of the fleur-de-lis drop, and a spectacular fireworks show: Symphony in the Sky. Admission is FREE and open to the public.

• NEW YEAR'S EVE EXTRAVANGANZA ON THE STEAMBOAT NATCHEZ

9:30 PM - 12:30 AM

Hop aboard this iconic paddleboat for a delicious buffet dinner, open bar, and live music to celebrate 2017. Boarding begins at the Toulouse Street Wharf, with the boat cruising until midnight. Expect amazing views of the fireworks and a party on board until 12:30 a.m. Tickets are available for \$175 per person

• NEW YEAR'S EVE AT THE RIVERVIEW ROOM - 9:00 PM - 1:00 AM

If you're feeling fancy, you will not want to miss this elegant black tie event along the Mississippi River. Enjoy being wined, dined, and serenaded by music from the Top Cats while catching the fireworks and midnight ball drop from one of the best views in town. Be sure to book in advance. Tickets are available for \$175 per person.

• NEW YEAR'S EVE FRANK SINATRA STYLE - 9:00 PM - 1:00 AM

Dance the night away with the Victory Swing Orchestra at the National World War II Museum. The event will feature music, dancing, an open bar, a four-course dinner, and midnight dessert served on the dance floor to ensure you have a sweet start to your New Year. Tickets are \$185 per person for non-members and \$175 per person for members.

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THE *Sweet* LIFE



The holidays are enchanting, indulgent, and about as fantastical as it gets making them the perfect match for dreamy confections, impeccably wrapped chocolates, and fine candy. Boxed treats from chocolatiers around the globe and artisanal confections almost too beautiful to eat are among the sweetest gifts of the season. From splendid ganache-filled truffles and decadent bonbons to nostalgic classics made by generations of candy makers, a present of something sugary brings out the child in all of us. Traditional seasonal favorites such as peppermint bark and chocolates, and gourmet small batch goodies packaged in whimsical paper and foil, are a scrumptious stroll down candy land and certainly not just for kids.

BY KATY DANOS



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