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Southern made

Crafts in line for show

More than 200 of the country's contemporary craft artists will be in Atlanta this weekend for the American Craft Council Show at the Cobb Galleria. Here is a look at the work of three of the Southern artists who will be in attendance. *By Linda Jerkins, for the AJC*



Nankaii.com

Ocean inspired

Many artists are inspired by the colors, light and textures of coastal areas. Nancilee Woodyard Overdyke, a custom jewelry designer and metalsmith, is no exception. The Gulf Breeze, Fla., artist produces a line of jewelry called Nankaii, a variation on a Hawaiian phrase (nani kai), which means "beautiful ocean." In her pieces, the 2004 SCAD grad uses nylon-coated steel – layered, looped and linked – with a combination of precious metals, semi-precious stones, Swarovski crystals and some repurposed objects. Her rings and earrings are under \$100. The "Rock Ring" is \$45. It is made of sterling silver, pink tourmaline and nylon-coated steel cable. Visit www.nankaii.com.

Treasure chest

When it comes to furniture design, Birmingham's Bobby Michelson makes functional pieces of art. His solid wood furniture has a contemporary look, but it is crafted with old-world details like hand-cut dovetails. Michelson's attention to detail carries over into the woods he chooses to make a bed or bench. Though he honors all wood, the Alabama craftsman prefers exotic varieties, such as curly maple and curly cherry. The "Treasure Chest" is made from bird's-eye maple, Honduras mahogany, ebony, maple and Australian lacewood. The drawers are lined with ultrasuede. The unique chest with the beveled mirror is \$15,000. Michelson also makes smaller pieces, including hand mirrors (\$90), menorahs (\$195), lamps (\$350 and up) and small tables (\$800 and up). Visit www.bobbymichelson.com.

The South's best finds

Do you have favorite finds from across the South that you give as gifts, buy for your home or rave about to friends? If so, please share them with us. Send your suggestion to: ljerkins@bellsouth.net. In the subject line, write Southern Made. Please include your name and contact number.

Where can I find it?

By **Sabine Morrow** smorrow@ajc.com

Q: I have a friend who is crazy for fajitas and that's all he orders when we go to a Mexican restaurant. He's talked about making them at home and I would like to surprise him with one of those oval cast iron skillet that the restaurants use. Can you please help me find one? The ones I find are regular size, not like the restaurants have. He'd be so thrilled at getting such a fun present. – *Sally Bruar, Kennesaw*

A: Fajitas are not only delicious when prepared at home but festive as well. I found the perfect set for your friend so that he can make authentic, restaurant-style fajitas. Lodge Logic's pre-seasoned, ready-to-use fajita set comes with a heavy duty, oval cast iron skillet measuring 10 inches by 7 inches, a wooden platter and a slip-on pot holder for the handle that has red chili pepper designs. It's available for \$27.99 at the quirky Old Time Pottery, 2949 Canton Road, Marietta, 770-419-9360.

Q: My son has been looking for chocolate extract in the greater Atlanta area to no avail. It appears to be available on the Internet but is expensive after you add in the shipping and handling charges. I'd love to be able to find it for him. Can you help? – *Pamela K. DuMouchel, e-mail*

A: Pamela, there's no need to purchase this fragrant chocolate extract online when you can get it locally at Star Provisions, 1198 Howell Mill Road, Atlanta, 404-365-0410. You'll find 2-ounce bottles of Nielsen-Massey pure chocolate extract for \$3.95.

Q: Over the holidays, I used up the last of my granulated brown sugar. In the past, I have found two different brands: Domino and Dixie Crystals. Although my food markets carry these manufacturers, they told me at the service desks that granulated brown sugar is not available. Granulated brown sugar is excellent for cooking and baking. It doesn't lump, is easy to measure and dissolves quickly. Please help me find it. – *Lois Schwartz, Marietta*

A: While it is easy to pour, note that you can't always substitute granulated brown sugar for regular brown sugar. It has a different moisture content that can affect your baking results. Domino brand Brownulated light pourable brown sugar is available at Ingles, 827 Joe Frank Harris Parkway, Cartersville, 770-607-3872. A 14-ounce bag costs \$1.12.

Q: I am looking for a hand-cleaning gel called E-Z Clean. It is like a liquid pumice stone and is supposed to work really well on tough dirt. Thank you. – *Burt Calvin, Atlanta*

A: E-Z Clean Pumice hand cleaner boasts a shelf life of more than three years, and the manufacturer claims it can rinse away oil-based inks and paints as if they were watercolors. It's also billed as non-drying and environmentally safe. You can find 16-ounce bottles for \$2.98 at Lowe's Home Improvement, 1280 Caroline St., Atlanta, 404-658-8650.

Having trouble finding a particular item? We'll try to help you locate it. Because of the volume of mail, we cannot track down every request. Write to us at Buyer's Edge Find It, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 223 Perimeter Center Parkway N.E., Atlanta, GA 30346; e-mail smorrow@ajc.com (include your name, the city you live in and a daytime phone number); or call 404-526-7205.

Midsection mosaics

Singers Amy Grant and Steven Tyler like his intricate, one-of-kind belt buckles. So do movie stars like Cameron Diaz. The artist behind the bedazzled buckles is Paul Pearman of Augusta. To make his mosaic belt buckles, Pearman combines gemstones with recycled and found objects, such as shark teeth, fossils, stained glass and vintage jewelry. The custom mosaic buckles come in many shapes, including best-sellers such as the butterfly, paisley and heart and skull. The metal used is all hand-forged. Most of Pearman's buckles start around \$495. See more of Pearman's work at www.mosaicbuckles.com.



Paul Pearman Mosaic Buckles



Bobby Michelson Ramwood Furniture

Event preview

22nd annual American Craft Council Show

10 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. Admission \$13; \$20 for a three-day pass. Children 12 and under are free. Cobb Galleria Centre, 2 Galleria Parkway, Atlanta. www.public.craftcouncil.org/atlanta

Testing 1-2-3



Joby Gorillapod video tripod

\$24.95

What happens: You can banish those shaky home videos when you attach your handheld video camera to this Gorilla and his three burly legs.

What works: It's portable and easy to use. Simply screw the tripod into your Flip or other small video camera and bend the flexible legs in any position. It allows you to shoot from a wide variety of angles and locations because not only do the legs bend in any direction, but the base of each leg features a powerful magnet, so you can attach it to any magnetic object in any position. Works on compact still cameras, too.

What doesn't: If you get too creative with the leg bending or wrapping, or if your camera is too heavy, you'll notice the legs start to give when you least expect it, and you could end up shooting the ground instead of your subject.

What you get: Removable clip with universal 1/4-inch tripod screw and pan and tilt capabilities. It can hold a camera weighing up to 11.5 ounces. The ball-and-socket legs allow for extreme flexibility.

Where you get it: Available through joby.com and at select electronics stores.



Dyson groom tool

\$69.99

What happens: You can brush and vacuum away your pet's hair in one motion.

What works: This tool – which attaches to a Dyson vacuum cleaner – worked perfectly on my two German shepherds, which are also known as German shedders. The fur was collected on the slicker brush, then immediately sucked up through the vacuum hose to which it's attached. Any loose hair that doesn't stick to the brush gets inhaled by a small vent on top of the brush attachment, leaving little room for hair to escape during grooming.

What doesn't: Obviously you need to have a Dyson vacuum along with a pet that's used to being groomed around a noisy vacuum cleaner.

What you get: The hand-held tool looks similar to a slicker brush with metal bristles. Press the top of the tool to expose the bristles to brush your pet, and when you release it, the fur will disappear into the vacuum.

Where you get it: Available through www.dyson.com and in stores this spring.



Shun herb snips

\$39.95

What happens: Harvest and cut all of the fresh herbs you want with clean precision.

What works: The lightweight shears feature an extremely comfortable handle that makes cutting a little or a lot of herbs a simple task. The ergonomic handles work for left- or right-handed users. It comes apart for easy cleaning or storing. Super sharp, straight-edge blade can be sharpened when needed.

What doesn't: While they're handy, they won't replace regular kitchen shears when you have tougher jobs to tackle.

What you get: Handcrafted in Japan, the 7.5-inch shears feature soft Santoprene handles, and 16-degree cutting edges are designed to produce clean cuts that won't bruise herbs or damage delicate plants. A stem stripper on the shears removes leaves from tough stems like rosemary.

Where you get it: Available at www.williams-sonoma.com.

Got a product for a pro to test? Let us know at ajc.com/buyersedge

Sabine Morrow, smorrow@ajc.com