

Enjoying *Handmade*[®] at the NYIGF[®]

by Traci L. Suppa

The freshest finds from around the world will be presented within *Handmade*[®] at the New York International Gift Fair[®] (NYIGF[®]) this summer. The show's extensive, juried selection of cross-category handcrafted items returns August 13 through 17 to New York City. *Handmade*'s two distinct categorizations – classifying artisans by process and provenance – focus on superior design and craftsmanship.

Handmade Designer Maker[®] showcases 360 limited-production makers – across all categories and in all media – from around the world.

Handmade Global Design[®] features 200 international resources which combine sophisticated design with traditional artisanal techniques.

Meet some of the talented artisans exhibiting at *Handmade*[®] this summer!

DISTINCTIVELY DESIGNER MAKER

dbO Home

From their studio in the Connecticut countryside, Dana Brandwein Oates and husband Daniel collaborate on the design and thoughtful, small-batch production of luxury wood and porcelain accessories, lighting, furniture, and textiles. Committed to sustainability, they recycle their own materials and offset their electricity usage with wind and hydro energy.

For the summer, “We are being a bit more experimental in our approach,” shares Oates. “We have come up with a design that uses what would have been waste.” The new collection includes trays and trivets made from a combination of the wood off-cuts from their furniture building and the cracked ceramic plates and platters that result from the glaze firing of their pottery. www.dbohome.com



Cate and Levi

After becoming a parent and realizing the lack of stylish yet responsibly made products for children, Josh Title created his own. The result was an endearing collection of stuffed animals, puppets, and wall art, handmade from reclaimed wool and other natural materials. Everything is

sourced as close as possible to his Toronto workshop. Colors and textures are individually selected for each product, and there is an environmentally responsible process which ensures each one is unique.

“Kids and parents love our products, because each is truly a one-of-a-kind creation,” shares Title. The company's newest line is a collection of “lovely” little purses, like this multi-hued pink and lime butterfly, complete with antennae. www.cateandlevi.com

Robert Siegel Handmade[™]

“I'm looking at a lot of mid-century design and the work of the old-world potteries,” explains Robert Siegel, a maker of porcelain and ceramic pottery. “I think this country needs a return to real craftsmanship.” With a focus on simple form, color, and texture, Siegel will launch into the global wholesale market at his first NYIGF[®] this summer.

The Los Angeles-based artist perfected his craft through artistic residencies in Jingdezhen, China, the birthplace of fine porcelain. His newest collection of wheel-thrown porcelain, with a hand-painted ostrich pattern, is microwave and dishwasher safe. The set includes the berry bowls, oval platter, ice bucket, and ramekins pictured here. Each limited-edition piece is hand-stamped. www.rshandmade.com



This is J

Based in Toronto, Jaimie Harris has embraced the push toward “green,” incorporating bamboo fibers and recycled packaging in her line of home accessories (umbrellas and blankets) and wearable fashion. “Our part in this is having eco-friendly materials more readily available in the North American market at better prices,” she says.

All of her products are made from custom-printed fabrics featuring original designs. Premiering in August, a new style of hand-printed Jammers matches a two-piece loungewear set with a headband made from bamboo fabric. The set comes packaged in a 100-percent recyclable gift box and is made in Canada. www.thisisj.com





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. They are returning to NYIGF® this summer, because, Noelle says, “We enjoy the wider range of buyers we see at the show. I like being a part of a show that has so many products available.”

The family vase, an extension of their best-selling family bowl, is lined with warm phrases like “we are family” and “we are one,” and other poetic phrases. The clay pieces are now available in both matte and glossy finish. www.zpots.com

GreenTree



Since 1992, Don and Jenifer Green have produced a line of studio-made home accessories with painstaking attention to detail and classic design. Their newest wholesale line features candles – individually hand-poured and finished using 100-percent pure, naturally scented beeswax. The long-burning beeswax is colored with aniline dyes and molded into a variety of shapes, from standard tapers to sculptural renderings.

The Divinity series features the calm and soothing face of Buddha. One of their best sellers, the 5-inch x 3-inch candles have a 50-hour burn time and are available in antique, bamboo, brick, bittersweet, cream, celadon, black, espresso, natural, robin's egg blue, sage, tangerine, terra cotta, yellow, wine, and pink. www.greentreehome.com

GREAT FINDS IN GLOBAL DESIGN

Melange Collection

Sue Edmonds personally designs her collection of hand-crafted, fair-trade products, then finds craftspeople around the world to produce them. “We work with artisan groups in Peru, Armenia, Guatemala, and Haiti,” she says.



“Our entire line is fairly traded, and we use sustainable materials whenever available.” The result is quality hand-made holiday decor, pillows, nursery décor and toys, tote bags, jewelry, and more.

New for the holidays, this 14-inch x 14-inch cotton Little Hat pillow, made in Armenia, is adorned with festive elf hat appliqués. Matching ornaments are available, as well. www.melangecollection.com

Harshita Designs



Inspired by her grandmother in Kolkata, India, Harshita Lohia took to art at an early age, making and selling wedding cards. By the age of 15, she

held her first solo painting exhibition. Following a formal art education in textile design, she began to create wearable art and original accessories. Her collections – scarves, shawls, handbags, jewelry, tunics, and jackets – represent her rich heritage and sensitive blending of East and West.

This summer, she will introduce an infinity scarf in combinations of five prints and multiple colors. “Hand-made textiles don’t strictly follow design trends, but infinity scarves are one thing I am seeing a lot,” she says. “Dark colors like chocolate, camel, maroon, indigo, and charcoal seem to be making their way in.” www.harshita designs.com

Tesoros Trading Co.

Jonathan Williams is not only an importer and wholesaler of folk art and crafts from Latin America, Asia, Europe, and Africa, he’s also a retailer. He curates an eclectic collection of folk art, furniture, crafts, sterling silver jewelry, weavings, handmade clothing, and other milagros from more than 20 countries.



EDWARD ADDEO,
HAND/EYE MAGAZINE

Last year, Williams began the Million Hearts for Haiti program to raise funds for post-earthquake aid organizations, with support from GLM. Hearts made by Haitian artisans in stone, metal, papier-mâché, and other materials continue to be sold. “We have raised well over \$100,000 so far with sales to Donna Karan’s Urban Zen, Pottery Barn, West Elm, the Clinton Foundation Museum, and dozens of smaller museum shops and boutiques,” Williams reports. www.tesoros.com