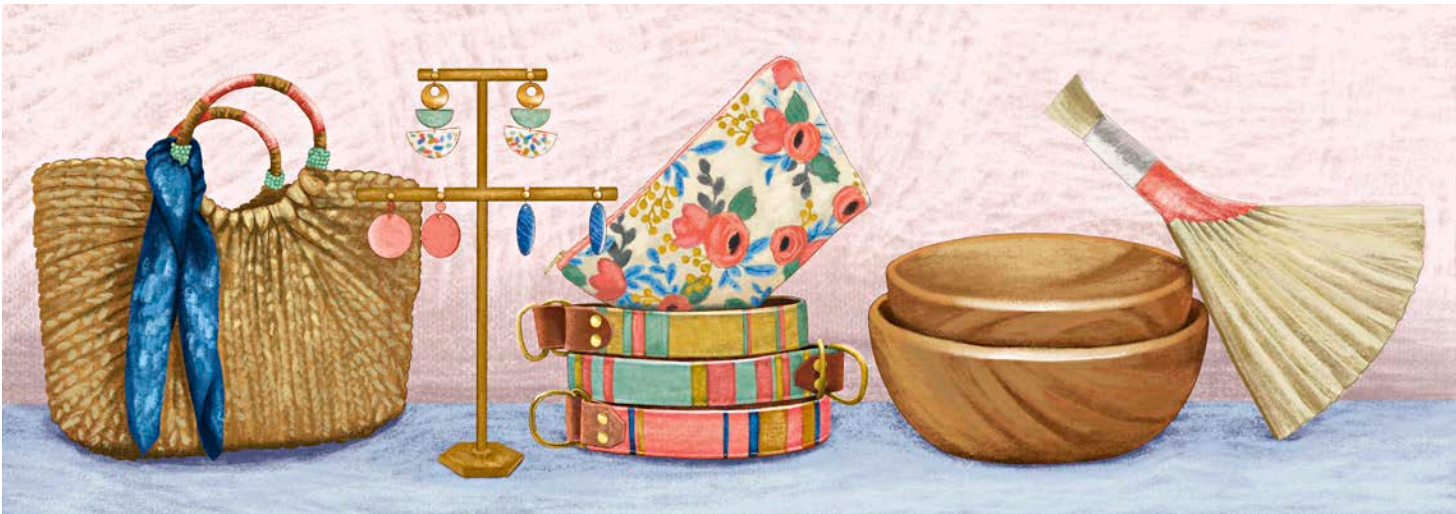


Local's Guide



Made with Care

From printed tea towels to cozy mittens, these handcrafted goods are ideal for gifting season

BY AMY CONRY DAVIS ILLUSTRATION BY KENDYLL HILLEGAS

Florida

FORT LAUDERDALE

Ocean Plastics

Accessorizing with jewelry from Ocean Plastics is a win-win situation. With every purchase, you'll help save the planet, support the Surfrider Foundation's mission, and look fabulous while doing both. As a former competitive sailor who studied marine biology, Addy White considers the sea to be her second home. When she found a creative solution to a big environmental problem, her business began to grow organically. She spends hours scouring beaches searching for discarded plastic debris of every shape and color. Her pieces are often named for places she's visited and is now working to protect. Even miles from the beach, a Cuttyhunk Ring (\$35) or a pair of Tashmoo Hexagon Earrings (\$35) can be your shining reminder of (cleaner) sand and sun.

Georgia

ATLANTA

Glad & Young Studio

Anna Zietz and Erica Tankesley met while working as bartenders and bonded over their shared interest in creative pursuits. With Tankesley's considerable skills as a seamstress and Zietz's experience in graphic design, it seemed that an artistic collaboration was inevitable. They joined forces formally in 2015, and Glad & Young Studio was born. From their bustling makerspace in Ponce City Market, the two work alongside a team to handcraft all manner of leather handbags, jewelry, and other accessories in a rainbow of hues. For truly distinctive gifts bound to make any recipient appreciative, check out their marbled Coaster Set (\$30 for four), an easy-to-spot Luggage Tag (\$28), or the handy Sunny Side Sunglasses Sleeve (\$32).

North Carolina

ASHEVILLE

Poppy Handcrafted Popcorn

This popcorn began with a simple plan and a big vision. Ginger Frank wanted a work-life balance that would suit her and her family, and it turned out that small-batch popcorn was the ticket. Now, her wildly successful company, which started with one machine, sells its unique snacks from coast to coast. Their flavors continue to expand, but the Asheville Mix Snack Bag (\$6) and Pimento Cheese Sharing Bag (\$11) won't steer you wrong. They also carry festive holiday options like Reindeer Crunch, Chocolate Peppermint, and Cinnamon Bourbon Pecan (\$12 each).

ASHEVILLE

The High Fiber

Asheville is a destination for the arts, and The High Fiber epitomizes the Blue

Ridge Mountains' crafting spirit. Daphne and Ed Cohan produce cotton/linen-based textiles embellished with the likes of acorns, berries, and farm animals. An earth-friendly attitude is the name of the game for The High Fiber, so careful consideration is given to their materials and dyes—and much of the work is done by hand. Even the print-transfer process makes use of good old sunshine. Along with being naturally made, the napkins (\$40/set of four) and towels (from \$15) are machine washable.

South Carolina

CAMERON

Fair Isle Company

The lovable creatures of Fair Isle Company grew out of Laura Ray's curiosity with the woodlands near her home. She began by photographing the animals she saw and turning them into fuzzy knitted characters with creative backstories. Her business expanded with the arrival of her grandson, when she added booties, hoods, and mittens into the mix. Today, the small forest friends and children's attire remain, but her line of winter wear has evolved to include pieces for grown-ups as well. Accessories like the Adult Wool Cap (\$35) and Cashmere Mittens (\$30), made with upcycled materials, are some of her most sought-after items.

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA ARTS & CULTURE

